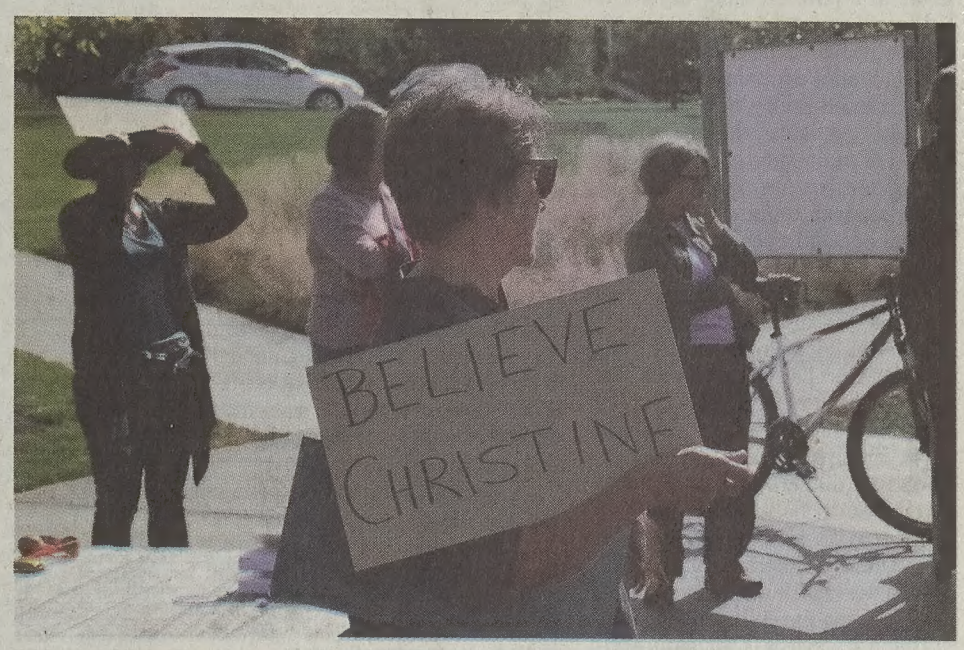
The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXVII, No. 4 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, OCTOBER 4, 2018 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

THEY BELIEVE CHRISTINE



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students and community members in downtown Middlebury join the nationwide #BelieveChristine campaign organized by and for survivors of sexual assault.

Middlebury Rallies to Support Survivors

By JAMES FINN
Senior Opinion Editor

As Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified against Supreme Court Nominee Brett Kavanaugh early Thursday afternoon, dozens of students, professors and Middlebury residents gathered across the street from Shafer's Market as part of a cross-country display of support for the California professor.

The demonstrators congregated around noon, many of them carrying signs bearing the hashtag #BelieveChristine and the words "I Believe" — slogans of a protest movement organized by and for survivors of sexual assault that took hold across the nation in the days leading up to Ford's testimony.

"It felt like a really important moment of solidarity," said Sophie Taylor '20, who participated in the demonstration. "If just one of the women who shared their experience with sexual assault got something out of being able to share it in a space that they felt safe, then I think it was really successful."

College professors Tara Affolter, Laurie Essig and Marion Wells organized the demonstration, which was publicized through the Women's March online forum.

Affolter and Essig gave opening statements as demonstrators gathered and invited survivors of sexual assault to share their experiences. After two women had told their stories, the demonstrators walked to the roundabout in the downtown where they joined others across the country in a minute of silence at 12:30 p.m.

Thursday's demonstrations were the culmination of weeks of national anticipation that lead up to Thursday's hearings.

Ford said on Sept. 16 that she would testify publicly to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the sexual assault she alleged Kavanaugh committed against her at a high school house party in Maryland in 1982.

Then on Sept. 23, The New Yorker broke the story of Deborah Ramirez, who accused Kavanaugh of assaulting her when they were students at Yale. Conversations about male privilege, drinking culture on college campuses and systemic challenges faced by accusers in Ford's position dominated national news cycles approaching Thursday morning.

At the Middlebury demonstration, the emotion that drove people across the country to demonstrate was palpable.

"The pain that so many people are feeling in this moment is twofold....[we are experiencing this] as survivors of sexual assault but also as [people] living in a state where our bodily integrity is not of the state's concern," Essig said. "Hopefully these gatherings around the country reminded survivors and women that we do matter even when that is not recognized by our representatives."

Others said that raw frustration with a political establishment that seems to be overlooking Kavanaugh's past drove them to join the demonstration.

"The absurdity of this spectacle that we're seeing is the first thing that brought me out here today," Affolter said. "The notion that

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COLLEGE PARENT COFOUNDED NATIONAL LIST IN SUPPORT OF DR. CHRISTINE BLASEY FORD

By SADIE HOUSBERG and JAMES FINN
Senior Local Editor and Senior Opinion Editor

After Dr. Christine Blasey Ford made public her allegation that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her at a high school party in 1982, more than 1,200 alumnae of the all-girls Holton-Arms School signed an online letter of support.

One of the letter's founders is Nahid Markosian, PhD., who graduated from the school two years after Ford in 1986 and is the parent of current Middlebury College student Leila Markosian '21. Kavanaugh attended the all-boys Georgetown Preparatory School. Both are located in Bethesda, MD.

The letter, which garnered national attention as Ford prepared to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee, can be found at www.standwithblaseyford.com.

In a phone interview with The Campus, Markosian discussed the letter, Dr. Ford and prep school culture.

Middlebury Campus (MC): What made you decide to try and organize support for Ford?

Nahid Markosian (NM): I graduated from Holton-Arms in 1986, so I didn't know Christine Blasey Ford but I had heard on the news that she had wanted to remain anonymous.

One thing led to another and then she came out publicly. I was just thinking about how brave she is to do something like that and how much

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Commons Review Shows Discontent in Student Life

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

An internal review of the college's commons system revealed a significant disconnect between students and their commons, and highlighted key areas of concern within residential life, including a lack of student spaces and a strong feeling of disconnectedness among minority students, low income students and Febs.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Baishakhi Taylor presented the results of the "How Will We Live Together" study at a Community Council meeting last month. The study was conducted last spring by a team of students, faculty and staff, and was the first such review since the commons system started in 1998.

Psychology professor and faculty co-chair of the review Robert Moeller gathered data in focus groups, and developed and distributed a survey to 440 students in the classes of 2018-2021.5. Of the surveyed students, 27 percent identified as a racial or ethnic minority, 27.6 percent played at least one varsity sport, and 15.4 percent were Febs. Taylor said the student sample was highly representative of the larger campus.

Students participated voluntarily and remained anonymous. They demonstrated their level of agreement with given statements using a five-point scale, ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree."

More than half of those surveyed students responded "agree" to the statement, "I am satisfied with the residential experience at Middlebury," with another 10.5 percent strongly agreeing. However, responses relating specifically to the commons system were more neutral or negative.

About two-thirds of students surveyed either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement: "My Commons is a strong part of my identity," while 13.7 percent agreed or strongly agreed. For other questions, students were more ambivalent — a strong majority of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with statements such as, "I like being a part of a Commons for all four years" (45.7 percent), and "I feel like I am a valued member of my Commons" (43.4 percent). Responses were spread more evenly across the five options in response to, "The Commons system is a valuable part of my experience," and "My Commons FYC or RA is a valuable resource to me."

Minority students and low income students reported a drastically lower sense of belonging compared to other students.

"The theme of not belonging at Middlebury was strongly expressed among racial/ethnic minority students and students who described their family socioeconomic statuses as low," the summary reads.

The summary reports that most

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'IMPROVATHON' RAISES MONEY FOR CHARTER HOUSE

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Kaitlynd Collins '19 and Silas Keeter '18.5 perform in the Improvathon.

By ELLIE ANDERSON
Local Editor

A pie in the face of an improv comedy performer meant a $15 donation to the Charter House Coalition (CHC) last Friday.

For nearly nine hours, members of the college's three improv comedy groups — Otter Nonsense, Middlebrow and Baggage Claim — hosted the first annual "Charter House Improvathon" outdoors before a live audience, in the Gamut Room Amphitheatre.

They took turns performing through the afternoon and evening in support of the Charter House's fundraising campaign to make its building fully accessible for those with disabilities.

Audience members were offered the chance to make improvisers say or do certain things

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COLLEGE REARRANGES LATE NIGHT FOOD OPTIONS TO MAKE UP FOR GRILLE CUTS

By CAROLINE KAPP
News Editor

Hungry students in search of a late-night snack are now facing limited options on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The Grille will close its doors at 2 p.m. on those days. The Grille will maintain its typical hours during the rest of the week, closing at midnight on Wednesday and Sunday and 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Detora explained the cut in hours as part of an ongoing effort to review dining options on campus, citing lower student traffic at The Grille on Monday and Tuesday nights. He explained that the college is trying to better satisfy student needs while also being fiscally responsible.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Baishakhi Taylor defended the cut to Grille hours, citing the greater number of students who eat in dining halls early in the week. "Monday dinners averaged 99.6 percent participation last year and Tuesday averaged 98.6 percent," she said. These numbers drop throughout the week as more students make use of alternative dining options.

Student services is currently evaluating dining options on campus by studying how students use the facilities. Taylor reiterated Detora's goal of allocating resources to the places where students use them the most.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Nia Robinson '19 explained that while the SGA discussed the closing, it is ultimately outside their jurisdiction since it is a staffing, budgetary and usage issue. Robinson noted that while many students are upset, they understand the rationale for the change.

Robinson acknowledged the concern around student access to late night dining options on campus. However, Taylor emphasized that the college had actually expanded — not reduced — the eating options for students by making this change.

To make up for the reduction in Grille hours, Wilson Café will now be open until midnight on Monday and Tuesday with a full menu, and GrilleMe will deliver bagel sandwiches as an alternative to Grille food. GrilleMe completed their first round of bagel sandwich deliveries on Sept. 24.

Midd-Xpress will continue to be open until midnight and Crossroads will stay open until 10 p.m. Midd-Xpress offers healthy snacks such as yogurt parfaits and fruit cups along with new Grab and Go sandwiches, wraps and salads as well as a new pizza option with a variety of toppings.

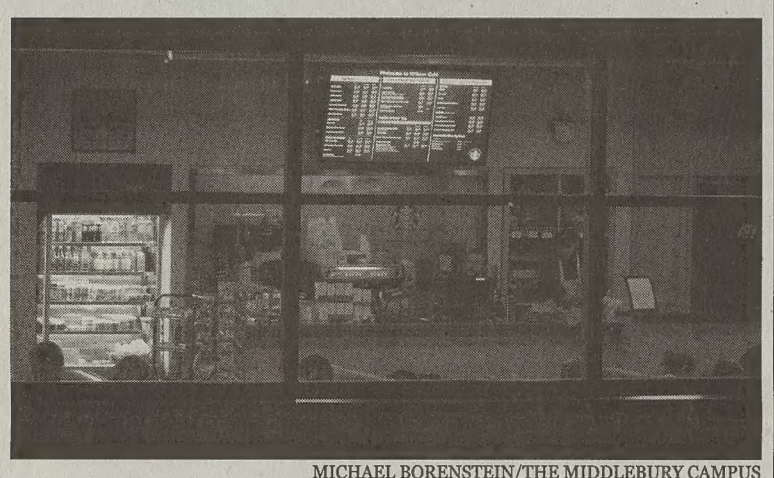
In an interview last year, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost said that he would like for McCullough to become more of a student center. "I don't believe it reflects what most student centers on college campuses look like," he said.

While the cut in Grille hours might appear to contradict this goal, Detora explained that he plans to set up an advisory committee that will discuss ways to improve the Grille this fall. The committee will consist of students, faculty and staff.

Taylor expressed an ongoing commitment to strengthening social life on campus. "We seek to understand more about what students show us they want, which is not always the same as what they say they want," she said.

Students on the full meal plan will continue to have a $25 declining balance each semester. Taylor said that, looking forward, there are improvements to be made at the Grille and even opportunities for food options at the Athletic Center.

While some students may be disappointed that they can no longer order a Dr. Feel Good to accompany their Monday night homework, Nicholas Nonnenmacher '21 affirmed that the Chicken Parm sandwich from Wilson Café is "an artfully crafted masterpiece."



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Wilson Café is now open until midnight on Monday and Tuesday.

National Security Expert Talks Russia Investigation

By CHRIS GERNON
Staff Writer

Robert Mueller's ongoing special counsel investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election has left the public on tenterhooks since it began in May of last year. The ongoing investigation has resulted in the indictment of several people who have worked extensively with President Trump, and the hazy legal precedent surrounding the prosecution of a sitting president is one of many uncertainties that surround the effort.

Garrett Graff has been covering national security and Russia's tampering in the 2016 presidential election since before the investigation began. The former editor in chief of Politico Magazine, he now serves as the director of the Aspen Institute's cybersecurity and technology program. Graff has also written multiple books, including an account of Robert Mueller's tenure as FBI director.

Graff will discuss the investigation next week in a lecture entitled "Decoding Robert Mueller's Russia Investigation." His talk will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Robert A. Jones '59 House Conference Room and is part of the "Meet the Press" lecture series.

Last Friday, Graff spoke with The Campus by phone about his reporting, the importance of the investigation and possible next moves for Mueller and Trump. The interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Chris Gernon (CG): How did you get interested in covering the Russia investigation?

Garrett Graff (GG): This is the biggest story in national security. I've been covering it on and off for the past two years, even before it morphed into the full investigation that it is today. I was covering it in the final weeks of the presidential campaign in 2016 when the Russian attacks on our presidential election were unfolding. This has been a lot of my professional time and energy over the last two years.

CG: What was Mueller hired to investigate?

GG: He was brought on in May of 2017. He was appointed by the deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein to lead a special counsel to investigate Russia's attack on the presidential election. The investigation involves all of the issues transpiring out of the attack, including the Trump campaign's contact with Russia and the role of Russian individuals during the president's campaign.

CG: How and why was he selected to lead the investigation?

GG: He was appointed by Rod Rosenstein, the deputy Attorney General. It was because he has immense respect in Washington from both Democrats and Republicans. He was the longest-serving FBI director since J. Edgar Hoover himself, and his term as FBI director had been extended by the US Senate by a vote of 100 to 0. There is no one in Washington who was as non-partisan and apolitical yet respected as Robert Mueller.

CG: Do you think the investigation has politicized Mueller's image?

GG: The Republicans and the president have spent a lot of the last year and a half attacking him and impugning his integrity with all the president's tweets about the witch hunt. However, I don't think we've seen any of that political pressure affect Mueller himself.

CG: What exactly does it mean that Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager, and Michael Cohen, Trump's ex-lawyer, are cooperating with the investigation?

GG: We don't know exactly what that means. Manafort's cooperation, particularly, is very much in flux. But that is a standard part of a plea agreement. When someone pleads guilty, they have to cooperate with the rest of the investigation. We have seen Mueller put some deals in place with people like Michael Rick Gates and most recently with Manafort.

CG: How does Trump benefit if he fires Sessions, his attorney general?

GG: It changes who is advising the Mueller investigation. If that person then so chooses, they could go after Mueller and fire him directly; they could tell cancel his investigation; they could cut the budget office. There are a lot of levers for that person to use to stop the investigation.

CG: Do you think the Senate needs to pass something to protect Mueller?

GG: They certainly have that option, and it's striking that they haven't acted on it. It has been apparent that Mueller's job has been jeopardy for well over a year striking, and the Republicans in Congress feel no need to do anything about it whatsoever.

CG: Are there other investigations looking into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election?

GG: The Justice Department is made up of a variety of headquarter-level entities in Washington, like the National Security Division, which oversees cases involving foreign espionage, counterterrorism, counterintelligence. There are other pieces as well, including US Attorneys' offices across the country. Mueller's probe has ended up going to some of those other headquarter divisions, like the National Security Division, who is now overseeing the prosecution of the Russian GRU Military Intelligence Officers.

CG: Do you think the investigation would end if Mueller gets fired?

GG: Mueller's investigation has gone on long enough and is complex enough and involves enough units of the Justice Department that it will be very difficult for it to be shut down entirely.

CG: Is Mueller facing any time crunch to wrap up the investigation?

GG: No. He is certainly aware of the timeline of the investigation. Frankly, this investigation has moved very quickly for a federal investigation. Mueller has a delivered an enormous number of cases in different investigations since he's started.

CG: Do you think the investigation is in the fourth quarter?

GG: I think it is. Since I've been talking about this investigation, I've used baseball metaphors, and I feel like Mueller investigation is in its seventh inning

CG: What do you think the ninth inning results in?

GG: My honest answer is I think we have no fathomable idea.

Middlebury Parent on Prep School Culture

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courage it takes. I felt for her and her family and really wanted her not to feel alone going through all of this. I wanted her to feel support from people who knew her way back then or were familiar with the culture of the school.

It all kind of started with me putting a post on our alumni page after asking, "how can we support our peer who has been so brave and courageous in sharing her story of the sexual assault?"

It really was the alumni group that picked it up and ran with it. They're the ones who drafted the letter and it really sort of activated this solidarity among women.

When I was at Holton-Arms I don't remember any conversations about date rape or sexual assault or anything. So I decided I didn't want to keep the silence going. The petition started off with 15 people and it grew to 200 and I think now we're at 1,100. It's so important to remove the shame – to help people remove the shame from the experience. One woman said so eloquently, when she saw that we were all trying to help Dr. Blasey Ford not feel alone in this — she said "it gave me courage to know that I could say something and not be alone either." This is about showing support for Dr. Blasey Ford, but also changing the norms around this [culture] in doing so.

MC: Could you speak to the atmosphere and the culture at Holton-Arms and how, in your opinion, it has changed (or not) since your time there?

NM: I had super protective parents and wasn't allowed to do a lot of things so I feel like I can't really speak too much about that particular social scene because I wasn't part of it. I do know that there's a lot of affluence and entitlement so in retrospect I think my parents were probably smart; what they were doing made sense. One thing I will say is that I don't think it was just Georgetown Prep — I think that was the dynamic among a lot of those schools.

MC: In light of all the retroactive support the alumnae of Holton-Arms have given Ford, what advice would you give to current high school and college students to better have these sorts of conversations now? What can young people do now to help?

NM: I think that trying to have a community where it's safe to share stories about what happened to you and share experiences and raise questions is crucial. Letting people know that they're not going to be alone and that there's support and help for them. Be vocal, be verbal. If you are getting close to somebody and things are moving along, it's always a good idea to ask are you okay with this, are you comfortable with this?

MC: How might you respond to somebody who defends Kavanaugh by saying that his actions are excusable given how much time has passed and because he was a drunk high school student/college student? Essentially, how would you respond to the "boys will be boys" argument?

NM: I think actions matter. I think that kind of behavior was not normal then and it's not normal now. It dismays me when people can't look at what they've done and realize that maybe it wasn't a big deal for them, but it really affected somebody else's life. It's troubling that adults now looking back at what they did during their teenage years are so quick to just brush it aside.

MC: Are there things that you think we, as college students, and more broadly, that the world should be paying particular attention to in all of this national drama? Are there things that we should be remembering?

NM: For centuries, women have not been believed. Women have very, very little to gain from disclosing these experiences in a public forum. And I think that when they do it's really important to listen and take it seriously and understand what happened. I want to say that and I want to tell people who are going through this: talk to your friends, talk to your counselors, talk to police, and we need to listen and we need to hear. It's not easy — it takes a lot of courage, and we need to respect people who speak up.

MC: Do you know at all what Ford's response to the petition has been or if she's made any sort of a response?

NM: I don't know, I don't believe she's responded.

MC: I definitely imagine it would make her feel less alone.

NM: I really, really hope so. We want her to feel that we have her back. And I know that some people are trying to make this into a political issue, but I don't think it is. I think she is speaking out about an atrocity that was done to her, and she wants people to know about this person's character.

Febs, Minority Students Feel Least Connected to Student Life

Continued from Page 1

students socialize in the dining halls, but a division between minority and non-minority students reportedly exists there as well. 93.8 percent of respondents said they used the dining halls as a social space and 94.9 percent said it was important to them that all students have equal access to the dining halls. However, several students reported that "students of color tend to eat lunch in one dining hall, while other groups of students may eat in another." Though the How Will We Live Together team could not confirm this alleged trend, they write that "the perception of segregated spaces in the dining halls was pervasive."

Students reported frustration with the college's requirement that they live in their commons during sophomore year. 25 percent agreed or strongly agreed that "picking a sophomore year roommate from my same Commons is a good idea," with 37 percent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Many said the requirement prevented them from forming "meaningful communities of their own."

Dislike for the two-year requirement was even stronger among feb participants. Feelings of isolation and disconnectedness "persist through their sophomore year, due largely to the 2-year-in-Commons residency requirement that forces them to remain housed in a Commons with which they feel little affinity."

The summary directly implicates the commons system as a potential obstacle to an inclusive community.

"The decentralized nature of the Commons system may in some ways unintentionally limit movement towards full inclusion, as their largely autonomous natures make coordinated cross-commons programming difficult and further divides students," the report reads.

The internal review details an insufficient number of social spaces on campus, and recognizes that this lack could contribute to general student unhappiness.

"Spaces for socializing, both informal ones such as residence hall lounges, and reservable spaces for events of all sizes, are extremely limited and in some cases and buildings, nonexistent," the summary reads. "The loneliness and isolation many students report is consistent with the availability and organization of spaces we provide students."

John Gosselin '20, a member of the How Will We Live Together team, shared his thoughts on the results in an interview with The Campus.

"My preliminary takeaways are that the commons system is working to a certain extent, but could work better, that the current student center is wholly ineffective as a social space, and that the sophomore housing requirement may be detrimental to students' general development, although I would like to reserve my final judgment until the external review is complete," Gosselin said.

Moeller sees the study as an opportunity to change several aspects of student life for the better.

"We're trying to improve the student living experience, make meaningful improvements to the student social experience, which has been declining, find opportunities to make this a community all students feel welcome in and better integrate the Febs, among other things," he said.

Student activities dean Derek Doucet was the other faculty co-chair of the study.

"The findings are fascinating," Doucet said. "They suggest that there is much that our present system does well, and also that there are areas for considerable growth and improvement. They suggest, not surprisingly, that students' perceptions of the present system are mediated by their various identities, and so it would be a mistake to imagine a single student experience of residential life and the Commons.

"Overall, I'm more excited than ever to see where the project takes us from here," he said.

The study is only one half of the review process. During an external review that will begin in late October, residential life experts from similar colleges will come to campus and submit their own report. Moeller said that the How Will We Live Together committees will then look at both the internal and external reviews, draft recommendations and present them to the college community. As a final steps, the committee will consider feedback and submit the final recommendations to Taylor, who will then decide which recommendations are implemented.

The executive summary of the review's results and the survey data can be found at go/commonsreview.

**Editor's Note: News Editor Bochu Ding is a member of the How Will We Live Together steering committee. Ding played no role in the reporting. Any questions may be directed to campus@middlebury.edu.*

The graphic above appears with the Holton-Arms alumnae letter in support of Ford online at www.standwithblaseyford.com.

#BELIEVECHRISTINE DEMONSTRATION DRAWS CROWD DOWNTOWN

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someone is entitled to one of the highest positions of power in our country, and the idea that what that person has done in the past doesn't matter, that's absurd."

Conversations also turned towards parallels between the party culture described from Kavanaugh's high school and college years, and student life at Middlebury today. Though close to 30 years have elapsed since the incident Ford described last Thursday, Middlebury's community can still learn from those parallels, Affolter said.

"In so many cases these accusations are explained away as if 'that was college and I was drunk and I was young,'" Affolter said. "I think that institutions like Middlebury or any undergraduate institution really have to ask ourselves, how are we preparing and supporting young people to be responsible for their actions?"

Most of the demonstrators who gathered Thursday were college students, but town residents joined the event as well. Community members have joined forces with college protesters in the past, like in March when hundreds of Middlebury Union High School students joined college students and professors in a walkout for increased gun control after the Parkland shooting.

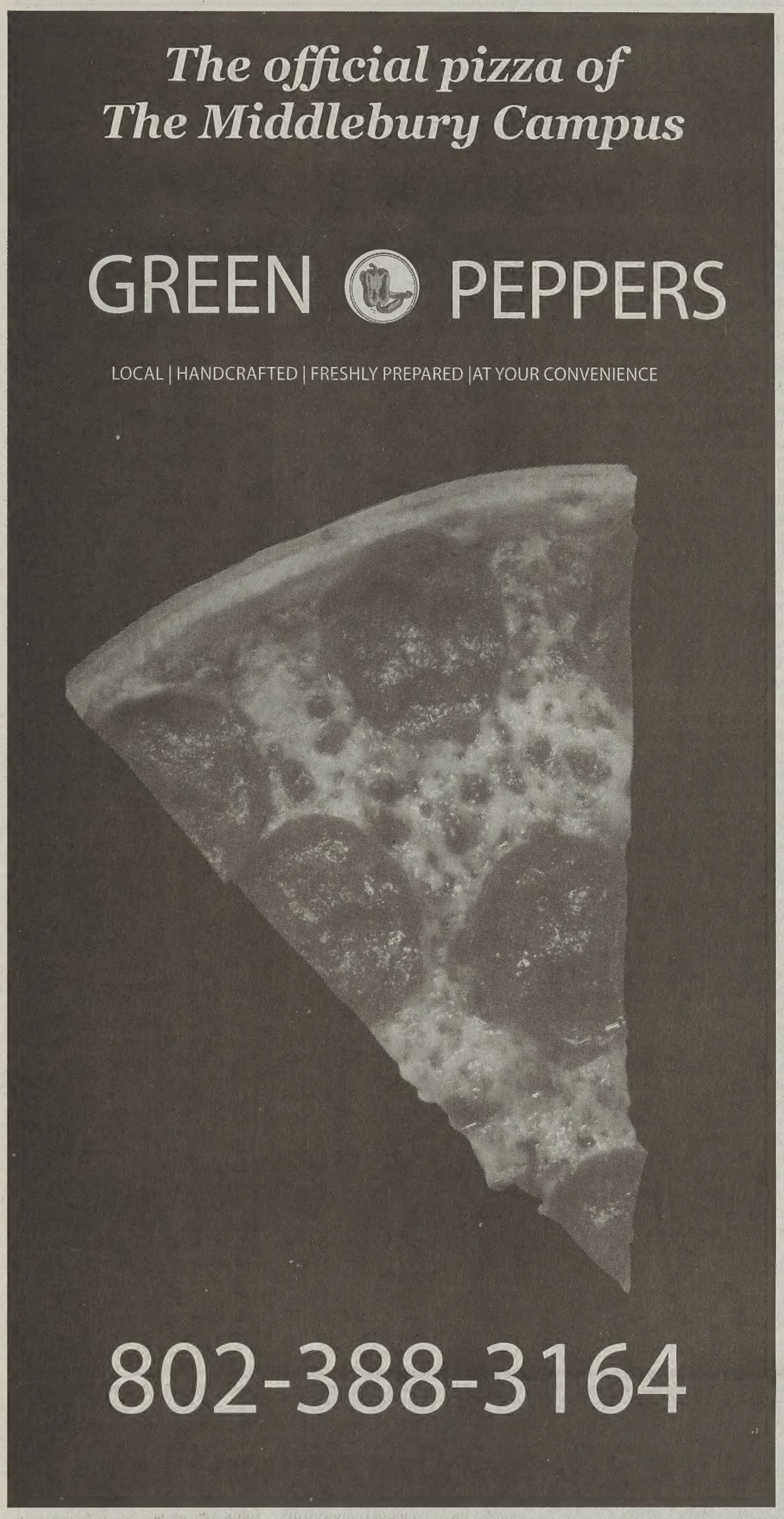
According to Affolter, it was important to her and the other organizers that Thursday's demonstration be accessible to the town as well as the college community.

Joanna Colwell, owner of Middlebury's Otter Creek Yoga Studio, helped the professors spread word of the demonstration around town.

"I just really love it when we get town people and campus people together during moments like these," Colwell said. "I don't think it happens enough and I'd like to see it happen more."

Though Essig posted the event to the Women's March action forum on Tuesday, just two days before the demonstration, the crowd that gathered Thursday was substantial. Thursday's event didn't attract the same level of student attention as past protests like the Parkland walkout did, those who went were struck by the intensity of the connection with fellow protesters that they felt during the demonstration.

"I really liked the minute of silence," Taylor said. "I think that the power in numbers and silent support and connection with one another was palpable."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Ban the Bag? Middlebury Considers Town-Wide Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

By BENJAMIN GLASS
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury resident Amy McAninch hopes town legislature will soon pass a bill that would prohibit local retailers from providing customers with single-use plastic bags at checkout. With the help of roughly a dozen volunteers, McAninch has successfully completed a town petition as of September, bringing her proposal one step closer to being voted on in Middlebury's annual town meeting in March of next year.

The initiative began last spring, when McAninch realized other New England towns were passing similar bans on plastic products, specifically plastic grocery bags. She described the somewhat epiphanic moment she experienced after reading a letter to the editor in a local paper on the subject.

"What's the matter with Vermont? We should be doing this," McAninch said.

Soon after McAninch started organizing the petition, Amelia Miller, now a junior at Middlebury College studying environmental science, stumbled into McAninch's project through a research assignment in her Environmental Policy class.

She said the initiative was right up her alley. "My parents hate shopping with me, because I refuse to use plastic bags," Miller said. "I will carry things out with my hands."

Miller was able to connect with McAninch through her professor, and things just felt right after that, Miller said. The two began working in tandem to formulate a town petition and spread word of their efforts. Their specific request? To halt retailers in town from providing bags with a thickness of less than four mils, or .0004 inches. Typical single-use plastic bags are one to two mils thick.

"Four mils is the difference between single-use plastic and reusable bags," Miller said. Miller and McAninch hope that with a thickness minimum at four mils, any plastic bags that retailers can supply will be too expensive to be single-use, and will incentivize customers to use their own reusable bags. However, the ruling would not inhibit retailers from providing plastic packaging as part of a product, nor the sale of plastic bags and other plastic products. Although the ban would only knock out a specific moment in which one type of plastic product is used, McAninch and Miller believe a plastic ban of any magnitude could have larger implications.

"The goal is not to solve the plastic problem. Everything is plastic. We live in a plastic world," Miller said. "The ban will create a conversation about how plastic is used in all aspects of our lives."

Maggie Eaton, a volunteer for the initiative, agreed that this project is about "protecting downstream damage that these bags do." She decided to volunteer her time for the proposal because of how much she sees the effects of plastic-product waste daily, even in Vermont.

For McAninch, a ban of this scope would show our plastic-product dependency. "There's no doubt it's convenient. It's too convenient," she said. "It takes effort to wean yourself off."

Since their initial introduction last spring, McAninch and Miller have collected signatures from over 5 percent of town voters, the amount needed in order to receive a spot on the town ballot. To collect signatures, McAninch and Miller's strategy involves standing outside the Middlebury Foods Co-op on Washington Street, attending public town events and holding a booth at the Middlebury Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ban the bag petition at the Middlebury Farmers' Market.

McAninch said the reception has been quite positive, and estimated that 85-90 percent of all Middlebury residents she asked have signed the petition. She guessed that she currently has over 300 signatures. Eaton said the next step is contacting merchants and letting them know there is a possibility of a plastic ban in an act of "preparation."

Middlebury is now added to the list of Vermont towns where residents have or are attempting to ban single-use plastic bags from retail locations. This list includes Brattleboro, the first Vermont town to enforce a similar ban on plastic bags, which went into effect this July. McAninch hopes that with more towns banning these bags, it will put an impetus on Montpelier to pass legislation. Pertinent bills addressing plastic usage have been floating around the Vermont State House for a few years now.

As for herself, McAninch will keep collecting signatures until her petition is filed, and is looking toward March 2019, when the proposal has a chance to be voted on by residents.

"I just feel outraged — we're just drowning in this," she said. "It seems to me there just has to be some quantum leap in our conscience about what we're doing to the Earth."

Squirrels Gone Nuts! A Northeast Population Boom

By JONAH RYAN
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury students returned to Vermont at the start of September to find an abundance of new bushy-tailed friends on campus. Though squirrels have always been a constant at the college, there is a noticeable increase this fall.

"They're everywhere!" said Brooke Laird '22. The squirrels have become a favorite new topic of conversation around campus, and many have been left wondering if this is simply anecdotal evidence or if we are actually in the midst of a boom in squirrel populations.

The abundance of oak and hickory trees in the greater Champlain Valley has always accommodated a thriving squirrel community, but many Vermont locals and college students claim to have observed even greater numbers this year.

They are not wrong, according to John Gobeille, a biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Squirrel populations have multiplied this year, and we can expect further increases in coming years.

"We've had very mild winters that have helped squirrels [survive] over winter better, and we've had good crops of their food species, what we call mast trees — things like oak and hickory [trees]," Gobeille explained during a recent interview with Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition. These types of trees produce what is called a hard mast, the acorns, hickory nuts and beechnuts that are essential to a squirrel's diet.

Gobeille believes that this squirrel boom is years in the making. "Last year there would have been a high squirrel [re]production ... and this year we're seeing it continue because over the winter there is more survivorship of the younger squirrels," Gobeille told VPR. "So a couple years of that adds up to what we're seeing [now]."

Fortunately, there appear to be few ill effects of a greater squirrel population. When asked if the increased squirrel population could harm agriculture, Gobeille told VPR, "We haven't gotten any complaints of squirrels on crops, but that's not to say that it couldn't happen. But basically, they're concentrating on the mast right now." On Middlebury's campus, they seem to also be concentrating on scavenging food from garbage cans.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Squirrels spotted foraging on campus.

Many students also commented on how brazen and active these squirrels are. They seem to have little to no fear of the student body. Gobeille told VPR that this frenzy of activity happens every year during the fall. The heightened activity is part of the rush to gather all of the sustenance the squirrels need to survive the winter.

The influx in squirrels has also lead to an uptick in roadkill. A walk through town on any given day usually yields at least a couple dead squirrels, and some students have even begun counting the number of dead squirrels they see driving around the state.

"The reason you're seeing a lot of squirrel roadkill is they're very, very active this time of year storing up acorns ... for the wintertime," Gobeille told VPR. "So they're moving about, crossing roads a lot."

Gobeille offered some advice for motorists when they see a squirrel attempting to cross the road.

"Slow down, if you can — it's nice to give them a break," he said. "Don't put your life in danger, obviously."

Perhaps the most excited about this squirrel boom are their predators — the hawks, owls and foxes. These predators will likely also experience a growth in population due to the abundance of the "squirrel crop," said Vermont Edition host Jane Lindholm.

It's likely that Middlebury students will continue to see an abundance of squirrels across campus for the foreseeable future.

No Whey Out: Nat'l Tariffs Affect VT Dairy Industry

By BRIDGET COLLITON
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY — New Chinese tariffs on American goods have created challenges for the local dairy industry. On Tuesday, Sept. 18, China announced tariffs on $60 billion worth of goods, including dairy products. This dairy tariff amounts to 25 percent of the cost of the product itself.

The tariffs on American dairy products come as a direct response to tariffs placed on Chinese goods by the Trump administration. These fees form part of an ongoing trade war, which began when President Trump enacted tariffs on steel in March 2018. The Chinese government reacted by placing taxes on $60 billion worth of U.S. goods. The trade relations between the U.S. and China have followed a similar tit-for-tat pattern throughout the summer, with each country increasing tariffs response to the other's actions.

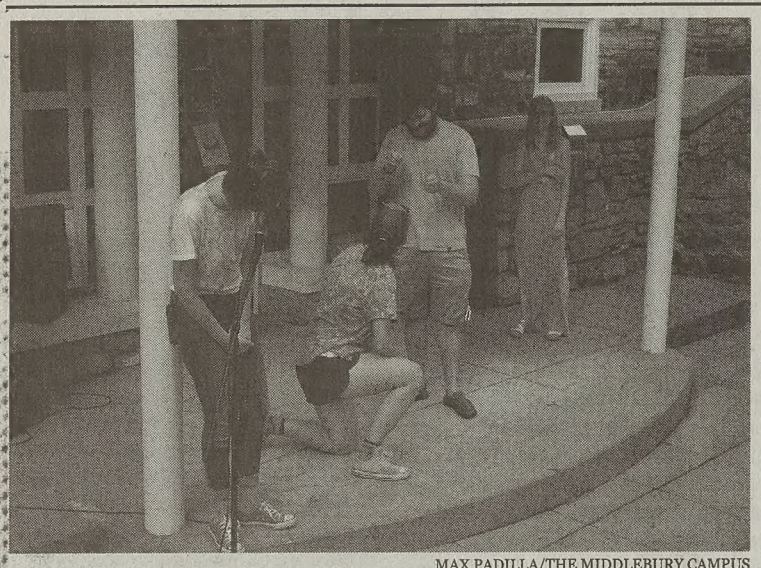
Agri-Mark is a cooperative that owns one-third of the farms in the New England region, including Cabot Creamery. The cooperative operates four plants, one of which is located in Middlebury. Agri-Mark is currently one of the largest suppliers of dairy products in the Northeast.

The increased tariffs have mostly affected the sale of dry whey products, the only products Agri-Mark sells internationally. Producing cheese and milk creates whey runoff, which is then dried into two different products, whey permeate and whey protein concentrate. According to Doug DiMento, Director of Agri-Mark's Corporate Communications, the latter is sold nationally and internationally to create the well-known whey protein powder, a staple in many supermarkets and health food stores. Whey permeate is mostly sold internationally as a component of processed foods or as animal feed. Agri-Mark currently sells most of its whey permeate to China to use as animal feed.

"The tariffs have impacted our dry whey product business, and we've worked for many years to build those relationships with China," DiMento said.

The fees have already begun to affect Cabot. DiMento estimates that the tariffs will cost Agri-Mark

Continued on Page 4



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Performers act out skits funded by audience donations.

Student Improv Groups Host Charter House Fundraiser, Raise $800

Continued from Page 1

in return for donations — for $10 one could make a performer sing or dance — and Charter House T-shirts were also on sale for $15. Attendance was consistent throughout the night except during dinner hours, and around 10:30 p.m. a rush of excited students crowded into the outdoor theater to join in the final hour and a half.

As for the improvisers, who continued performing even as the audience fluctuated, the temperature dropped and pie cream congealed in their hair, they were exhausted but thrilled to be using comedy for a greater purpose.

"One of my favorite things in this world is improv comedy, and to have something that gives me so much joy be used to make concrete improvement in other people's lives makes it even more enjoyable," said Middlebrow member and Campus cartoon editor Kaitlynd Collins '19.5 after the event. "It certainly wasn't my best improv — you tend to get a little delirious with a tiny audience, dried pie hair and hours of improv — but at the same time I would do it again in an instant."

> ***"Accessibility can't wait that long."***

The Improvathon raised $800, all of which will benefit Charter House's $81,000 GoFundMe fundraising campaign for building accessibility. So far, the campaign has raised a total of $3,040. (To donate, go to www.gofundme.com/accessibility-at-charter-house.)

CHC is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization located in downtown Middlebury that houses those in need during the fall and winter months and provides thousands of meals throughout the year. CHC actually opened on Saturday, Sept. 1 this year, six weeks earlier than usual, in order to accommodate the community's extra needs. The organization is housed in a building generously gifted by the Congregational Church this past July. Unfortunately, it is in dire need of many repairs and renovations.

"The building is 230 years old, and there are several items that need to be addressed in order for Charter House to continue to operate a shelter," Co-Executive Director of CHC Samantha Kachmar told The Campus in a previous interview about the shelter's early opening.

At the top of the list for Charter House right now are renovations to make the building more accessible. They began a three-year Neighbors Helping Neighbors campaign in order to raise funds for other repairs, but "accessibility can't wait that long," CHC wrote on their GoFundMe page. "Charter House needs to be made accessible this year, so we don't ever have to turn someone away again."

The Improvathon fundraiser was born from the actions of Jackie Atkins '20, a member of the Middlebrow improv group and a former intern at the Charter House, where she volunteered this past summer. Atkins was the one who originally launched the GoFundMe accessibility campaign back in August, and she cares deeply about the importance of and immediate need for Charter House's accessibility to all.

"If you think about how interconnected poverty and disability are, it's just wrong that an inclusive space like Charter House isn't easily accessible to everyone yet," Atkins said.

She is also painfully conscious of the separation between the town of Middlebury and the college, particularly regarding student awareness of homelessness and the Charter House Coalition. She attempted to bridge that gap through the Improvathon.

"I think there's a perception that Middlebury is an extremely wealthy town because of the presence of the college, but there's a lot of poverty here," Atkins said. "There's a lot of awareness and generosity among students here, but there's also a lot of willful ignorance."

Indeed, Atkins and other student volunteers who worked the event found that many students had never heard of Charter House, further emphasizing the need for events like the Improvathon. "It's an important thing because we want to raise awareness about housing insecurity here in Middlebury, which a lot of people don't even know about," said Mayher Patel '19, who volunteers with Charter House and worked the fundraising table at the Improvathon.

Though the Improvathon's original fundraising goal was $2000, Atkins did not feel discouraged. "I'm extremely proud that we were able to raise $800," she said. "To me, it proves that an event like this is worthwhile, and with better planning on my end, it could be much more successful."

The Charter House is always looking for new volunteers, and opportunities vary quite a bit: volunteers can work with the meal programs, take shifts supervising the winter shelter, work in the garden or join the maintenance team.

Trainings will be provided on-site for new volunteers at the following times: Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 6, 9–11 a.m.; Monday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.–noon; Saturday, Oct. 20, 9–11 a.m. Students interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the chair of the Charter House Student Organization, Luna Shen, at stshen@middlebury.edu.

Doughboys and Flyboys: The Henry Sheldon Museum Commemorates Middlebury's Contributions to World War I

By WILL SIMPSON
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Since the end of July, Middlebury's Henry Sheldon Museum has been home to the exhibit "Doughboys and Flyboys: WWI Stories by Vermonters from the Home and Battlefront." The culmination of over a year of work by Executive Director William Brooks and museum staff, Doughboys and Flyboys highlights the stories of Addison County residents who were in the service during WWI. The exhibit will be accompanied by a series of "noon-time talks" throughout October and early November.

Timed to align with the 100th anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice, the Sheldon exhibit focuses on the stories of four Middlebury residents. Brooks explained that the inspiration for the exhibit came from the centennial and his personal connection to Middlebury's WWI history. His grandfather, Dr. Jacob Johnson Ross, once the head of the college's physical education department, served as a flight surgeon for the US 17th Aero Squadron during the war.

"World War I is a huge subject matter — how was I going to approach this exhibit?" said Brooks. "[I] decided to advertise to people in the area who had relatives in the service."

Along with Ross', three other residents' stories are featured in the lower level of the exhibit: Stephen A. Freeman, longtime head of the French department at the college, Middlebury resident Waldo Heinrichs and former Middlebury Professor of German Werner Neuse.

Enter the Sheldon Museum's primary exhibit room, and you'll be greeted with a bounty of WWI artifacts. Vintage posters line the walls, advertising war bonds or decrying the "Hun," while exhibit cases dotted with century-old documents, diaries and photographs await perusal. The museum's upper level is a visual treat, filled with pristinely preserved artifacts on display, including helmets, a stretcher and even an original Luger P08 pistol. Walk into the back room, and you may feel a chill down your spine as papier-mâché-swathed faces peer at you from the opposite wall.

These eerie faces make up part of Brandon-based artist Fran Bull's art installation "In Flanders Fields," inspired by Canadian army doctor John McCrae's poem of the same name. The poppies that to this day "blow between the crosses, row on row," in the fields of the Somme are brought to life in the installation by the visitors themselves. Museum attendees are encouraged to write thoughts on red squares of paper provided at the entry and stuff them into gaps in the papier-mâché figures, reinforcing the poppy imagery central to McCrae's poem. The dark shadows of carrion-bird figures hung from the ceiling accompany the ghostly faces, with the somber ambiance further supplemented by sounds of battle emanating from a speaker near the entryway.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Jacob Johnson Ross of Middlebury.

WLL SIMPSON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Fran Bull's "In Flanders Fields" installation.

The family history of Middlebury residents Karl and Diane Neuse is deeply rooted in the first World War, and, interestingly, connected to both sides of the conflict.

"My father didn't talk much about the First World War," said Karl. "[He] was drafted at the age of 16 into the German army, [and] his father was killed on the Russian front in 1914," Karl said.

A professor of German at Middlebury College for 37 years, Werner Neuse saved his wartime diary and passed it along to his children. Karl's sister provided a translation from the original German before loaning it to the Sheldon Museum. Diane's grandfather, William H.H. Childs, who served on the other side of the conflict in the American Field Service and the U.S. Army Ambulance Service, is featured in the same exhibit case as Werner Neuse.

"I had given the museum some postcards that my grandfather wrote from the front to his future wife and her family," she explained. Although Diane never met her grandfather, she remembered the intense family stories of his painful respiratory issues stemming from poison-gas injuries during the war.

"He was so severely wounded," she said, that it was extremely fortunate that "he was from a family well-enough-to-do that he didn't have to work [after the war]."

On Wednesday, Oct. 10, Middlebury Vice President for Academic Development and Professor of American Studies Tim Spears will be giving one of the featured talks on WWI. He will focus on his ongoing study documenting the national cemetery system and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). As Spears outlined, the inspiration for his project of visiting and photographing American cemeteries began while traveling in France.

"I didn't really know a lot about American World War One cemeteries in France, and so ... I started looking into the history of it, all the while conscious of the fact that what was really drawing me to these places was the visual landscape," he explained.

After completing a photography workshop in Sante Fe to learn new techniques, Spears began his project in earnest.

"There's no comprehensive treatment of the ABMC," he said. "I've written an article on this part of my research, which I'm now trying to get published." Having visited over 80 national cemeteries in the U.S. as well as many sites in France, Spears noted, "I was being drawn to these places because I like taking pictures. I've been trying to figure out how to balance my interest in photographing these sites with the historical aspects of the project."

The Doughboys and Flyboys exhibit will remain on display at the Sheldon Museum until Armistice Day. The Sheldon's "Noon-time Talks" series began with a poetry discussion by Professor Jay Parini on Tuesday, Oct. 2. A full list of talks is available on the Sheldon Museum's website.

A thorough exhibition of some of Middlebury's most interesting WWI stories, "Doughboys and Flyboys" explores the impact of such a large-scale conflict on a small town like Middlebury. Diane Neuse truly felt the powerful message behind the commemorative aspect of the exhibit. "[I] was on the verge of being overwhelmed by the art that went along with the show," she said. "WWI was horrific, and what did we learn? We just continue to do it again, again, and again, it seems ... and for what?"

Chinese Tariffs Impact VT

Continued from Page 3

at least several hundred thousand dollars and could easily soar into the millions by the end of 2018. "It seems like we're in it for the long-haul with the tariffs," DiMento said.

Agri-Mark currently shares some of the costs of the tariffs with China. However, in order to remain profitable in the long-term, Agri-Mark will need to focus on finding new markets and marketing their whey products in new ways.

The Cabot plant in Middlebury will be hit especially hard. The waste processing plant located in Middlebury is one of Agri-Mark's largest and produces much of the whey products sold internationally.

Students need not worry about their beloved Cabot products disappearing from the dining halls, however. Cabot cheese products are only sold domestically, so the tariffs have not affected the sales of these products.

"Because we age our products nationally, we already have a premium-priced product, there's little room. Because the nature of the cheese business is so competitive, it's very difficult to raise prices across the board without affecting the sales," DiMento explained.

The trade war looks like it will not be ending anytime soon. According to Associate Professor of Political Science Jessica Teets, domestic political concerns on both the American and Chinese sides will most likely prevent a swift end to this situation.

"President Trump has made pushing China into making concessions a key part of his presidential agenda, and I do not think he will back down unless the pain felt by consumers and manufacturers gets so intense that they organize and vote against him in the next election," Teets said.

"[In China] there is a national pride in 'standing up' to Western aggressors, and this is the narrative under which the trade war fits, which gives President Xi a mandate to not give in to U.S. demands," she added.

Despite the myriad obstacles, Cabot and Agri-Mark remain optimistic for the future. "What helps us every year is that Cabot products keep winning awards for quality, so we're going to keep focusing on the quality of our products," DiMento said.

Enrollment in VT Colleges on the Decline

By ARIADNE WILL
Contributing Writer

VERMONT — As Middlebury works to accommodate a growing student body, colleges and universities across the state are struggling to draw students to their programs.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported that the total enrollment in Vermont has been steadily decreasing, from 60,872 students in the 2009-10 school year to 57,889 students in 2015-16.

> ***"When there are enrollment challenges, there are financial challenges."***

The trend is also rampant at the national level, which witnessed a drop from 27.4 million total students enrolled to 26.96 million students enrolled between 2014 and 2015, a drastic plunge from the 29.5 million students attending colleges and universities in the fall of 2010.

Smaller schools, such as Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt., are taking the brunt of the issues brought on by under-enrollment. Between 2010 and 2018, Goddard's enrollment has plummeted from 804 to 438, Goddard officials told VTDigger. They reported that this shift has had a direct effect on budgeting.

"Institutions that don't have a big endowment or another source of significant income, tend to have their finances tied pretty closely to their enrollment," Barbara Brittingham, the president of the New England Commission of Higher Education, told VTDigger. "So when there are enrollment challenges, there are financial challenges."

It remains unclear why students choose to enroll heavily in some schools while turning down others, but the overall decline in enrollment has been largely attributed to two factors, said Jason DeWitt, a research manager at Clearinghouse Research Center.

"When the economy's good, college enrollments tend to go down, at least for working adults," DeWitt said in an interview with NPR this past May.

The second factor, according to interviewer Elissa Nadworny, is the shift of U.S. demographics. As shown in data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of college-aged citizens is on the decline, a factor that results in fewer prospective students.

Furthermore, many Vermont residents worry that local students are seeking degrees out-of-state, a claim, however, not supported by data collected by NCES. The data, though it shows a small decrease in in-state scholars over the years, does not appear significant enough to make the difference responsible for Goddard's hardships.

Such a claim is further debunked by data reported by the University of Vermont, which saw its in-state first-year student body increase by 14.9 percent between the 2016 and 2017 school years.

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We Demand Justice: Divest Shows Student Power

By CORA KIRCHER, LEIF TARANTA and LUCY WEISS

This past Friday, Divest Middlebury took a major step towards our goal of finally aligning the college endowment with our mission statement. At 11:30 a.m., three students from Divest Middlebury arrived at Old Chapel to present the students' position on fossil fuel divestment and the necessary steps the school must take going forward. Students gathered outside of the building to hear the presentation, intent on learning more about the movement that is currently gaining so much worldwide momentum. This day came as a result of years of effort by multiple generations of student and community activists; we are honored to build upon the work that initially created the Divest movement, and the influence of previous students' activism has remained essential to guiding our cause forward.

Friday morning, three students met with the Board of Trustees to present the case for fossil fuel divestment on behalf of the student body. The presentation lasted 15 minutes and was met with applause and support from members of the Board. Trustees were engaged and curious; they inquired about paths forward and were supportive of the conversation. The sounds of chanting, singing and shouting from student activists surrounding the building added to the urgency emphasized in the presentation. Our movement is more than conversations behind closed doors, but a campus-wide issue; in fact, it was student power that made the presentation possible.

Last spring, the Middlebury student body demanded divestment through an SGA referendum in which 80 percent of students supported fossil fuel divestment with a 70 percent voter turnout, the largest in recent memory. Students pressed the Board to pledge divestment of all endowment assets that include any of the top 200 fossil fuel companies. This referendum brought the issue to the Board's attention and showed them an irrefutable truth: divestment is a worldwide movement that addresses a crisis threatening members of our community at school, at home, and all over the globe. While divestment alone isn't the solution to that crisis, it is a tactic that can fight it.

Middlebury students do not come from a single background unaffected by environmental struggles. We come from the coast of California, from mountains on fire, from decimated coal mining towns in Tennessee, from wetlands in Florida ravaged by development, from communities feeling the impact of super storms and hurricanes. We come as immigrants who have fled the impacts of drought and resource wars, as international students from Indonesia, Siberia, Mexico, Brazil, Zimbabwe, New Zealand and countless other impacted nations. Furthermore, the Middlebury community extends beyond students, encompassing low-income staff members

VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Divest Middlebury members in front of Old Chapel after the presentation.

impacted by changing weather in Vermont, faculty with the Vermont Gas Pipeline in their backyards and alumni and families scattered across this world. We come from farms without soil, from urban environmental justice areas clogged with power plants and oil trains and refineries, from communities torn apart by fracking and pipelines, from nations slowly going underwater.

VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Students met with the Board of Trustees last Friday, Sept. 28, to present the case for fossil fuel divestment.

Here in Vermont, Lyme disease rates are skyrocketing, summer programs at Middlebury are interrupted by heat waves and winters are getting both shorter and warmer. As a board member pointed out after the presentation, climate change is one of the most challenging problems our generation will ever face. Global warming is not a problem contained to the scope of traditional environmental thought. It is a crisis where oppressive forces intersect and augment—a crisis that disproportionately devastates already marginalized populations.

Middlebury currently owns $53.7 million worth of the fossil fuel industry. As such, the college lends its reputation for sustainability and its social credibility to an industry whose base economic model requires the continued burning of fossil fuel reserves.

Using our school's name and money, the fossil fuel industry continues to feed climate change. The money that funds our education should not be used as a tool of the fossil fuel industry at the expense of the future. It is wrong to finance our education with a strategy that supports the destruction of our planet and our home communities.

On Friday, we told our Board of Trustees that continued investment in the fossil fuel industry is unacceptable. We must end our support for this industry — both for justice and for the future. We are confident that the Board will align Middlebury's endowment with the College's values of sustainability, community, and global leadership. After the presentation, Divest Middlebury received an email confirming that the Board is considering paths forward and will be releasing an official statement by the January 2019 Board meeting. To the Middlebury student body — thank you for your support. To those suffering from climate change and other injustices — we see you and we stand with you.

This article was submitted on behalf of Divest Middlebury.

Foreign Correspondents: Mariel Edokwe in New Zealand

By MARIEL EDOKWE

Even though I love Midd, by the end of my sophomore year I was ready for a break that was more long-term than summer. I was excited to be studying abroad in New Zealand at the University of Otago, a university with almost ten times as many students as Middlebury, and was ready to meet some new people — not to mention that I was eager to escape the U.S. given the recent political climate.

As I got ready for the (long) three flights that would transport me to the other side of the world, I didn't have many expectations. I didn't want to know anyone that I was going abroad with and sought to truly experience this journey on my own; while this mindset made things a little scarier, it also felt even more exciting.

When I got into North Dunedin around 10 a.m., I was sleep-deprived and not really in the mood to converse with the other students on my shuttle from the airport. Little did I know that some of the people on this bus would turn out to be great friends. Everyone seemed to know each other either through independent study abroad programs or due to how they all pretty much came from the same four schools (University of Denver, Saint Lawrence, Dickinson and Boulder). This made me a little anxious for the first few weeks, but as I texted my Midd friends, I was reassured that everything would be okay — and it has been!

COURTESY PHOTO
Mariel Edokwe '20 is studying abroad in New Zealand this Fall.

I'm currently sitting here in my queen bed in a large, single room with my three other flatmates/ good friends in the rooms next to me or across the hall. I have just two weeks of classes left, and have had many opportunities to see some amazing places and do some amazing things — like jumping out of a plane 15,000 feet above ground! I've made some friendships that I think will last a lifetime and have discovered myself as a person with this new level of independence that I've been given. I truly would not change this experience for the world and am so grateful for all of the people that helped make this opportunity possible. Moral of the story: go abroad for at least a semester!

I am also grateful because being in a new place for three months (which will turn into five before I know it) has made me value my life at home in New Jersey and at school in Vermont so much more. I love it here and nothing bad has happened — no culture shock, etc. — but I miss my family, friends and our way of life back home more than I imagined. I'm not really "homesick," but I am excited to have my two months of vacation with family and go back to school in January where my best friends and I can share stories from our time abroad. I promise that I won't come back claiming that I'm "so cultured" having now spent a few months in a different country, or claiming some newfound maturity after being allowed to legally drink. I will, however, be the same person that I was before, just with a smile on my face that's even bigger now as a result of having participated in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that has made me look at my life in a new way.

Mariel Edokwe is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2020.

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Students Respond to Kavanaugh Hearing

"these are not men who are scared in the way that we are scared"

By CHARLOTTE FRANKEL

When I came up with the idea for this column, my hope was to create a space for rather banal silliness to exist outside of the relative garbage can fire that is today's political climate. I still hold true to this intention and will continue to hold fast to this mission in the coming weeks. However, I have also been gifted with a platform, and I would be remiss if I didn't use it this week to write on the Brett Kavanaugh hearings and the subsequent responses I've seen from the media to friends' deeply personal reflections.

I am a woman. I know, big shocker! Alert the presses (which I am doing right now!) Anything I write here about watching Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee has probably already been said or written by the various women in your lives. The lack of originality in what I'm about to say shouldn't make you feel anything other than angry and sad. To watch Dr. Ford testify about her experiences of assault and have her testimony essentially summarily dismissed in favor of political gain was more than disheartening. It was heartbreaking.

To be frank, I didn't expect to have such an emotionally visceral reaction to the hearing. The end result was exactly what I had expected. I had prepared myself for the outcome. But to actually see Dr. Ford sit in front of those men and watch them disregard her account of her assault broke me. Furthermore, it forced me to once again consider the ways in which I, a woman, and others like me, have been taught to accept some behavior from men as normal, or just par for the course of existing in the world as a woman. This was further cemented by the numerous posts on Facebook by my female friends reacting to the decision by the Committee and Dr. Ford's testimony, recounting their own stories of abuse.

I am a woman, and I have been followed for blocks by a man on a bicycle in New York City. I have been asked lewd questions by multiple male taxi drivers, forcing me to throw whatever cash I had at them and run out of the car at a stop, praying they wouldn't follow me in anger. I have been followed down Main Street in Middlebury by a man who continually confronted me and a friend for some perceived slight. When I was 16, a drunk boy walked up to me at a party and took his time clawing his hand across my chest. No words were exchanged. He walked away as if nothing had happened.

Each of these stories I have told and retold; I don't think I have ever once told them seriously. This is to say, I treated them all as a joke. These things happen every day to women just like me, so why should I consider my experiences anything special? It was funny. It was funny that some man with control of the locks on the car thought it was appropriate to ask me whether or not I had a boyfriend and what his penis looked like. It was funny that this strange boy thought it was OK to touch me in a possessive, frightening way without my consent. And it was so funny that every woman I told the story to could relate in some way. We'd all laugh and move on with our lives in the shadows of these 'everyday assaults.'

I usually think that almost anything can be made funny. After all, as the classic formula states, tragedy + time = comedy. There was nothing funny about Dr. Ford's testimony. There was nothing funny about the complete lack of care expressed by some members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to her testimony. And I can't help but feel that there was really nothing funny about Judge Kavanaugh's testimony as well, which was mined for jokes by every late night talk show out there.

Humor is often used as a coping mechanism. But as I looked at the men who dominate late night give monologues about Judge Kavanaugh's overuse of the word "beer," his almost-crazed demeanor and his detailed calendars, I couldn't help but think that these are not men who are scared in the way that we are scared. This is not to say that they are not empathetic or understanding of what Dr. Ford and many women have gone through. This is to say that they are limited in what they can joke about, and we are forced to hear the same recycled lines over and over again, because, where are we?

Shows like The Rundown with Robin Thede and The Break with Michelle Wolf, both showcases for female comedians of color, have been cancelled by their respective networks/streaming services. The only female late night talk show host currently on air is Samantha Bee, whose show has a shorter runtime than her compatriots. Seth Meyers often allows his female writers (of whom Wolf was one) tell jokes that he "can't" tell, which is a step, but there is a complete lack of visibility when it comes to women in late night, where many of my friends actually gather their news from.

I guess I'm just angry. I'm angry that Dr. Ford's testimony wasn't enough to convince some senators to cross party lines and delay the nomination process, and I'm angry that I was in no way surprised by this. I'm angry that it feels like women are constantly shut down for telling their stories. This is not a commentary at all on the merits of these late night talk show hosts or their humor. Rather it is a statement of anger against women being systematically denied a platform to tell these kinds of jokes and cope with abuses of power through humor.

Well, that's all for now. Tune in next week when I genuinely will get smushed between the stacks in the bowels of the Davis "FAMILY" Library (I still have yet to see a 'family' studying together).

Charlotte Frankel is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2018.5.

"why am I even here?"

By SOPHIE CLARK

On Friday I had a fully-fledged, borderline comical, breakdown. Swollen red face, giant tears, the whole deal.

All over a Supreme Court nominee.

Because it was not just a nomination process. It was a blatant, full bodied, laugh in the face to any woman who is trying to accomplish anything in her life. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford is everything Trump's America could possibly want in a woman. From the outside, she is white, upper-middle class, non-threateningly middle-aged. From the inside, she has worked her entire life to receive an education, to earn a PhD and to become a professor.

And she wasn't believed.

She wasn't taken seriously. What does that mean for the rest of us? I went through the rest of that day feeling like a zombie. Passing from class to class questioning at every moment, "Why am I even here?"

Twenty-seven years ago, Anita Hill was hauled up in front of the same panel and treated with the utmost disrespect for all of the world to see. Treated so disturbingly in fact that it inspired a new generation of female candidates to run for office — to change things. It's been 27 years, however, and what has changed? Why should we even bother?

To me, this hearing screamed: what is the point of getting a Middlebury education when in the eyes of this country, no matter what I do, I will never be enough?

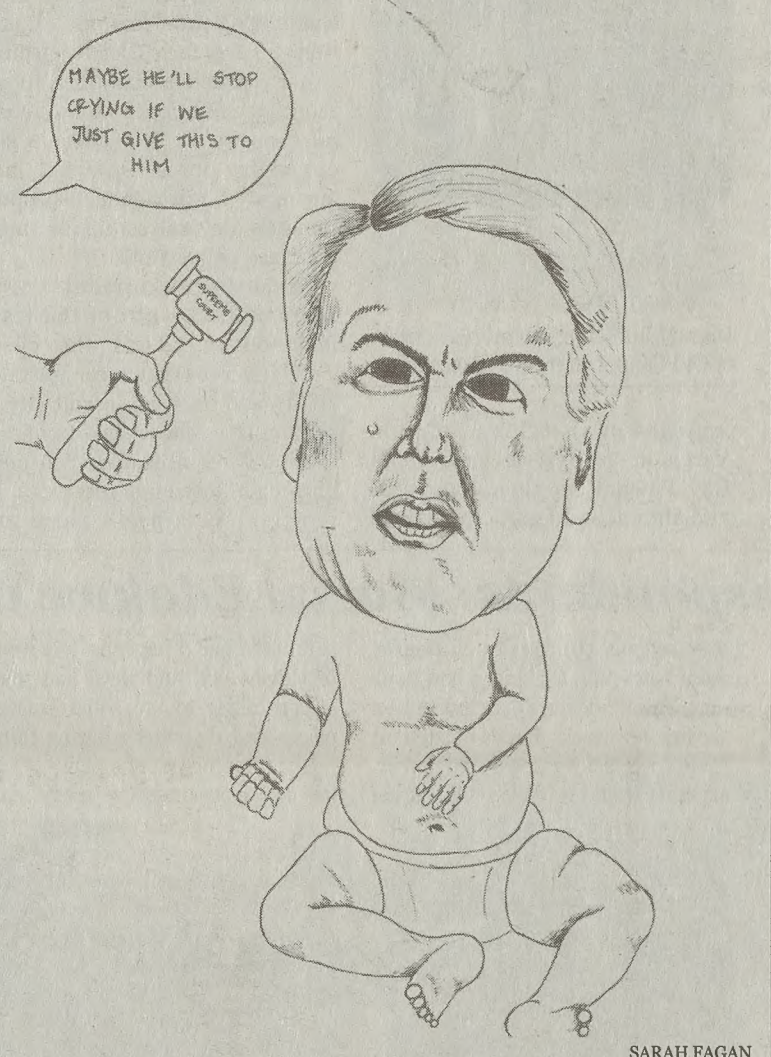
I'm lucky my attacker is not a particularly ambitious guy, but many attackers are. And in twenty years when those men are up for promotions that they are seen as "entitled" to, will their victims be taken seriously? Will anything change?

Other generations are quick to criticize millennials for being overly emotional, too attached to issues — but this is not just an emotional response to the pain of survivors (although I am perfectly entitled to that). This is an objective understanding that those in power shunt half of its population to the side with ease. So why should we bother? Why should we contribute? Why should we get educated, or speak up?

What pushed me out of this rut was the enormous strength I witnessed in other people. I saw the two women who confronted Arizona Senator Jeff Flake bare everything I was feeling and too scared to show to the world. I saw my own peers grapple with their pasts and chose to fight back against what I chose to bury. It gave me hope that there is still a force for change, that women are told "No" time and time again and that we are not giving in until we are given a chance to speak up and be listened to.

Emotional responses matter. Feeling utterly despondent and alone maters. Because I will never forget feeling that way and will forever look for ways to stop it from ever happening again.

Sophie Clark is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.



SARAH FAGAN

"they waited until she was gone to open their mouths"

By LUCY GRINDON

In 1982, Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. I believe it, and if you watched her testify last Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, it's difficult for me to imagine you don't believe it too.

Her voice sometimes shook, often she held back tears, but the truth of her words was as clear as water. So many women have opened up and written about their long-hidden traumas over the course of the #MeToo movement; watching Dr. Ford recount her assault in her own voice, in real time, she seemed to be the ultimate embodiment of this era.

I wonder if any Republican senators could have been moved had they actually spoken with her. Instead, they waited until she was gone to open their mouths. They claimed to have hired outside prosecutor Rachel Mitchell to question Dr. Ford because they wanted the hearing to be coherent and methodical. Of course, we know the real reason — they wanted to avoid looking aggressive and disrespectful towards women before the upcoming midterm elections. The most depressing and grave reality, however, is not their implied inability to treat a woman with respect, but their collective refusal to engage with anyone who might disrupt their view of Brett Kavanaugh as a victim.

Many men in our society, including some of the affluent, white, educated men who occupy government positions, can't seem to imagine any greater suffering than to be denied something they see as rightfully theirs, whether it's sex, a gun, or a seat on the Supreme Court. Our culture of entitlement can turn male-female friendships into the "friend zone," young men into violent "incels," and freedom of speech into a prerogative to spread racism, sexism, or incitements to violence without facing opposition or criticism.

The stories of those who have suffered at the hands of entitled men are the strongest challenge to the dangerous idea that men who don't get what they want are victims. Dr. Ford told powerful men how one of their own had hurt her, and the only way they could reassert Kavanaugh's victimhood was by undermining her legitimacy as a witness.

During the latter half of the hearings, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham did not question Dr. Ford's honesty or the strength of her memory. Instead, he tried to delegitimize her by casting her as nothing more than a political tool. In a furious tirade accusing senate Democrats of power-hungry political maneuverings, he said to Kavanaugh, "She's as much of a victim [of the Democrats] as you are."

Dr. Ford has certainly suffered. She has sacrificed her anonymity, her privacy and even her family's safety. But she was no one's victim in that hearing room. Everything she has said and done over the past several weeks has been her choice. "I am a fiercely independent person. I am no one's pawn," she declared in her opening testimony.

Brett Kavanaugh already made Dr. Ford into a victim once, when she was 15. Graham's effort to re-victimize her in the eyes of the country was a despicable attack on her personal agency and a denial of her heroism.

Despite intense fear, she stood up for the sake of truth, justice and duty, inspiring more people to come forward and hold sexual abusers accountable. Perhaps equally heroic was the way her testimony exposed the fraudulence of privileged men's victimization masks — the ones they accessorize with dramatic pauses and tears and indignant shouting.

On Friday, Ana Maria Archila and Maria Gallagher, two survivors of sexual abuse, confronted Arizona Senator Jeff Flake with their pain in an elevator. "Don't look away from me," Gallagher demanded as she spoke. Injustice, abuse, and exploitation are too common, and one person's emotional trauma is not more significant than anyone else's, but U.S. senators and men who are nominated to the Supreme Court are not typically the world's great sufferers. When people in positions of power and privilege are faced with that truth, they must not be allowed to turn away.

Lucy Grindon is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

"Dr. Ford made those watching her want to be better people, to emulate her bravery"

By MATT SMITH

Last Thursday, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford sat in front of some of the most powerful people in our country — the Senate Judiciary Committee — and she spoke her truth plainly.

She was honest when she could not remember something; she was "terrified" to be there and yet she felt it was her "civic duty" to testify. She spoke with such honesty and eloquence that it was hard to watch at times. Quite simply, Dr. Ford made those watching her want to be better people, to emulate her bravery.

This, contrasted with Judge Brett Kavanaugh's visceral anger and belligerence in his opening statement and in his answers to the Democratic members of the committee, displays the ridiculous double-standards that were evident in Thursday's hearing.

Speaking first, Dr. Ford was questioned by the Republican majority's prosecutor (hired so they wouldn't accidentally say something misogynistic) and by Democrats about the specifics of her story and the strongest memories of the night.

She did her best to answer every question directly and honestly, admitting when there were lapses in her memory. Conversely, Judge Kavanaugh spent his time denouncing the hearing as "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" and avoided answering nearly every question posed to him.

The Republican majority, after a tirade by Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, spent their time attacking both the Democrats on the committee and the hearing itself as being unjust.

Indeed, what they thought was unjust was the "good man" being made to go through the "most unethical sham in politics."

Imagine for a moment that Dr. Ford yelled at the committee members (which her emotions must have compelled her to do) and Judge Kavanaugh had stayed quiet, calm, and tried to be as helpful and honest as possible, in keeping with the behavior of a Supreme Court justice. There would be no question of his confirmation.

And so, I watched a hearing that started as a profound moment for the #MeToo movement disintegrate into a bitter partisan fight, led by an all-male group of senators. While criticizing the Democrats for not joining their investigations, they refused to call further witnesses, subpoena documents, or ask for further FBI investigation.

And yet while Republicans repeatedly avoided doing their job Thursday, it's hard not to acknowledge that both parties have larger motives: Democrats want to delay until the midterms, Republicans want to push this nominee through as quickly as possible.

Our Senate now lives by an "eye for an eye" doctrine. Republicans filibuster President Barack Obama's Federal Court nominees, so now-retired Senator Harry Reid reduces the vote requirement to confirm those nominees.

Then Republicans refuse to speak to former Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, so Democrats withhold Dr. Ford's letter until the last moment to try and derail a nominee.

And now Republicans refuse Dr. Ford and the other accusers a proper investigation, and so the cycle continues. At what point do we say, "Enough. What's right is right"?

Even the successful and admirable attempts of Senator Jeff Flake, a Republican from Arizona, to have the FBI investigate have been constrained by an arbitrary one-week time limit and a narrow scope. Doesn't Dr. Ford deserve more than that? Don't we deserve more than that?

In just the past few days, three women whom I am close to have spoken for the first time about assaults in their pasts. They volunteered their stories when asked about their opinion on Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation.

One said this: "the person who assaulted me would not remember my name or what happened – it meant nothing to him and forever changed me."

Judge Kavanaugh has issued a categorical denial of all accusations directed at him of ever being blackout drunk, all the while admitting that there were times when he "drank too much."

I ask then, is it not possible that Judge Kavanaugh did not remember this event because it meant nothing to him, because he was drunk at the time? Is it not possible that "it meant nothing to him and forever changed" her? In light of Dr. Ford's extremely compelling testimony, that seems the most likely outcome.

We can hope that this week's FBI investigation will shed more light on the allegations, we can hope that a man who has caused lifelong suffering will never sit in judgement of others.

Yet, we have a responsibility to do more than hope; we have a responsibility to vote for candidates who will believe and respect survivors. We deserve senators who won't congratulate themselves on giving Dr. Ford a fair hearing and call her testimony "the most unethical sham in politics" not an hour later.

It is very, very easy to fall into a partisan vortex. It's easy to fight with each other until we forget how much we have in common. Yet we all deserve a Supreme Court, conservative or liberal, that has members of sound moral integrity, who have led lives of virtue.

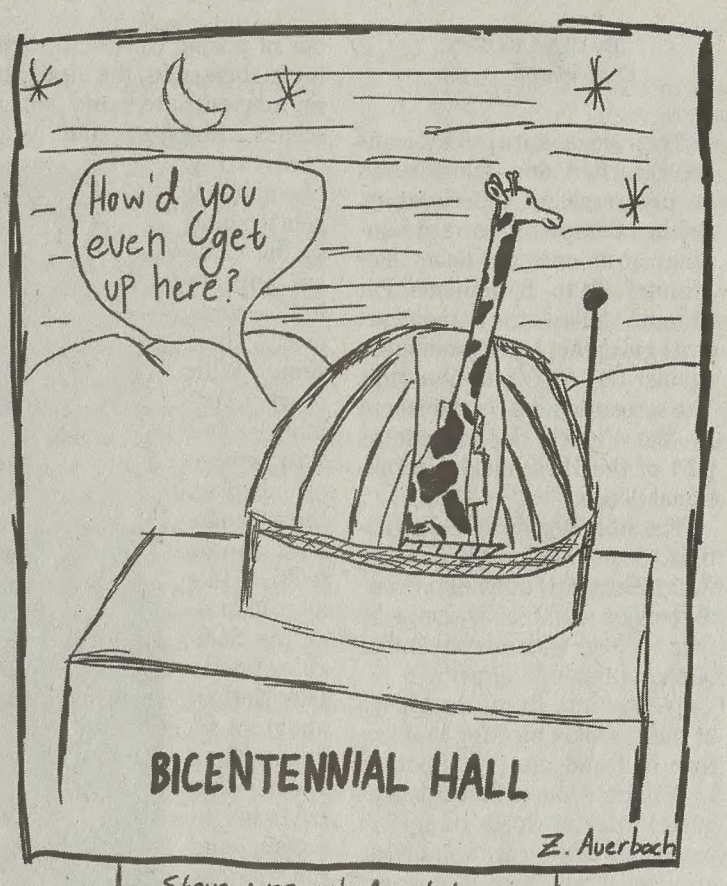
Can we not, at this moment in history, say to each other simply "What's right is right, and we all deserve better than this?"

Matt Smith is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2022.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

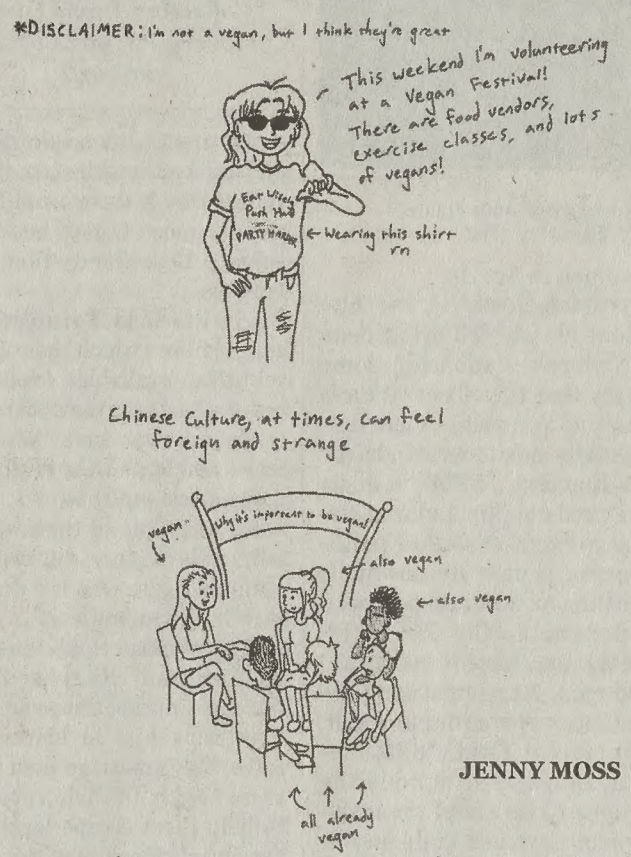
KAITLYND COLLINS

ZACH AUERBACH

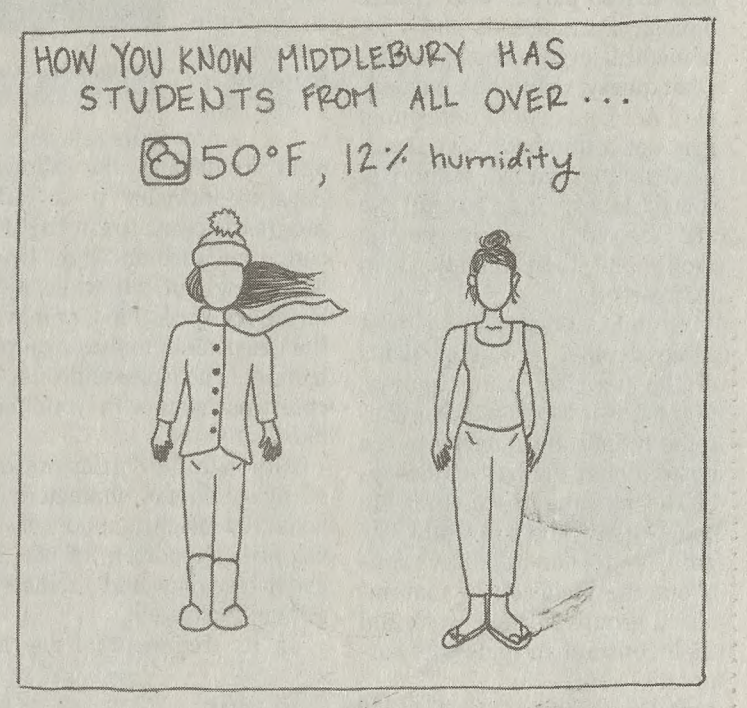


Steve was asked not to attend any future stargazing events.

PIA CONTRERAS


*DISCLAIMER: I'm not a vegan, but I think they're great
This weekend I'm volunteering at a Vegan Festival! There are food vendors, exercise classes, and lots of vegans!
wearing this shirt rn
Chinese Culture, at times, can feel foreign and strange
vegan
Why it's important to be vegan!
also vegan
also vegan
all already vegan
But vegans everywhere are somehow all on the same wavelength!

JENNY MOSS



SARAH FAGAN

MILLIE VON PLATEN

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Reel Critic: Beats Per Minute

By ELSA KORPI
Contributing Writer

Their slogans are catchy, jeans are bleached and their health is progressively deteriorating. Robin Campillo's award-winning 2017 movie "Beats Per Minute" ("120 Battements Par Minute") follows the Parisian activist group Act Up in their battle against HIV/AIDS in the 1990s. The screening was co-sponsored by the French department as part of the Hirschfield International Series.

The story begins following activist Sean Dalamazo's (Nahuel Pérez Biscayart) difficult personal struggle with the disease as he falls in love with new member Nathan (Arnaud Valois).

We are introduced to Act Up at their weekly meeting in a lecture hall and are accompanied by Fabien's (Jean-François Auguste) forceful words of advice: regardless of your true status, as an activist you have to now get used to being seen as HIV-positive. What follows is a series of awkward protest scenes, bass-driven parties with bizarre biological animations and a lot of medical jargon. Though somewhat quirky, Campillo's portrayal of Act Up is oddly refreshing: it is not a dumbed-down, sanitized and perfumed version of social movements. Instead we are allowed to experience the group and their messiness in first person.

Despite taking place almost three decades ago, the events of the film feel contemporary. Were it not for Thibault's (Antoine Reinartz) Gameboy in the hospital and the lack of laptops in the meeting room, the film could easily be set in 2018. The group's passionate discussions about the inclusion of marginalized groups in their work and their constant struggle with corporate representatives bear a striking resemblance to issues which continue to color social activism as we know it today. As the group storms a high school to distribute condoms and flyers, the headmaster exhibits the same conservative attitude towards students' sexuality which we still see in American sexual education today. Whether that says something about the stagnancy of Western social development can be debated.

Yet "BPM" is not all protest and debate. Judging by the number of people who were shrinking in their seats, the film's boldest moments are found in its sex scenes. Biscayart and Valois' captivating chemistry gets to shine as the camera appears to glide over their skin. With every vertebra and skin crease on display, the audience almost feels like an intruder. As Sean reluctantly tells Nathan about an affair with a teacher that led to his infection and the lesions on his skin, the heaviness of the atmosphere in the auditorium was palpable.

COURTESY PHOTO
"BPM" discusses intimacy and advocacy in 1990s France.

The film also proves its relevance to current debates by showing physical intimacy in a rather progressive way: sex in "BPM" is communicative and light-hearted throughout, all while never losing its spark. Plus: points for the consistent emphasis on protection — just please do not rip condoms open with your teeth like Sean does.

Although the stories presented by individual characters are generally insightful and well-developed, supporters of the Bechdel test may find themselves getting frustrated.

In its treatment of gay and lesbian women as accessories, "BPM" reflects the tendency of queer popular culture to pay disproportionate amounts of attention to gay men. Campillo feels entitled to throw around the derogatory word "dyke" for its shock factor yet gives little to no space for the development of female characters with strong presences like Sophie (Adèle Haenel), Eva (Aloïse Sauvage) and Hélène (Catherine Vinatier). While even characters with significantly less screen time, such as Germain (Médhi Touré) and Markus (Simon Guélat), get to vocalize their personal experiences with HIV, we are left to speculate what might have led the women to Act Up.

['BPM'] is not a dumbed-down, sanitized and perfumed version of social movements. Instead we are allowed to experience the group and their messiness in first person.

As the majority of the film is spent closely following Sean and Nathan's relationship, some may say that this observation is irrelevant. Yet such a view fundamentally misunderstands the film's function. "BPM" is at its core a political film and thus deserves to be discussed in political terms. Hence, its downfalls in creating an accurate portrayal are important: the HIV/AIDS epidemic may have primarily affected men, yet women certainly were (and are) not immune to it. In its current form, "BPM" remains complicit in reproducing misconceptions about the insignificance of women in the movement against HIV. Even a slight expansion of this angle could have given the film a dimension which few have explored.

As I walked out of the Dana Auditorium amidst viewers who, like me, tried hard to rub the marks of the film's last half hour off their eyes, I found myself hyper-aware of my surroundings. Arnaud Rebotini's soundscape and Campillo's intricate cinematography force your mind to recalibrate.

Sean may have been joking as he described the vividness which his HIV-status added to his life, but to the viewer that illusion is very much present. In its essence, "BPM" is what one would want a film about a personal struggle like AIDS to be. It is tender, it is unapologetic, it is raw and most definitely worth your time.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

'Como nascem os anjos' by Murilo Salles, 1996

97 minutes
Call Number: DVD Collection-Davis Family Library PN1997.C6755 A1 2000zD

RIOFILME

Ask my ex, I am notorious for picking bad movies so this instance was a fluke when I happened upon Como nascem os anjos, a high quality film, which I enjoyed.

The Brazilian, Portuguese-language film (which has English subtitles available), follows a queer plot that grows increasingly absurd over time. Succinctly, three residents of a favela* find themselves needing to escape home after one of them accidentally kills a very powerful and criminal figure who is a drug lord within the community.

They unexpectedly encounter an American citizen and, without any anticipation, end up sequestering him in his home by force. The American man tries to reason with the trio, promising to help them escape legal repercussions if they'll just leave. Tensions, however, start to mount, when the three find that they are not alone in the home. Police begin patrolling the neighborhood and the homeowner's secretary is looking for their American prisoner.

What I like about this film is the way it explores issues of socioeconomic class in a way that seems effortless or even by chance. The residents of the favela, generally marginalized and underprivileged, cannot expect the police to protect them from the violent vengeance that awaits them at home.

The deceased drug lord's posse, after all, are the de facto leaders of the favelas and this forces the three to flee. Comparatively, the American expatriate they find is bathed in riches, riches that these Brazilians have only encountered on television and in magazines. They marvel, for example, at the fact that all the appliances in the American's kitchen actually work and are not in a state of disrepair, which, for them, is unfathomable.

The chord that struck me the hardest, perhaps, was when German journalists visit the favelas in the opening scene and ask one of the lead characters, a young girl, about her dreams for the future. She has been exposed to so little that she cannot imagine a fulfilling life outside of rising in the ranks of the favela's social hierarchy. Her vision and dreams are limited by the borders of her community.

The film thinly veils a moralistic tale, seeming to suggest that despite the comforts we enjoy and the inequalities we choose to ignore, the world of privilege and lack can and will inevitably encounter one another, sometimes in unexpected ways. They become entangled and wrestle to break free from each other either without much success or at great cost.

I highly recommend this work to anyone studying Portuguese and/or planning to study abroad in Brazil or Latin America.

For more films that touch on the themes of the intertwined nature of social castes, see Paul Haggis' 2004 Crash (DVD Collection- Davis Family Library PN1997.2.C735 A1 2005D) or Olivier Nakache's and Eric Toldeano's 2011 The Intouchables (DVD Collection- Davis Family Library PN1997.2.I5765 A1 2012D).

For more on life in the favelas, see André Diniz's graphic novel Morro da favela (Davis Family Library Portuguese Language Browsing TR140.H64 D56 2011).

**Note: A favela is sometimes translated to "slum," "shanty town" or "ghetto." It refers to groups of homes in Brazil that often house residents who are experiencing chronic and generational poverty, are haphazardly built, lack basic infrastructure like plumbing, are illegal and governed beyond the powers of the state and are plagued with drug warfare and violent crime.*

A Funeral of Sorts: Burial of Sacred Texts Takes Place on The Knoll

By SOFIA MAKAROVA
Contributing Writer

Whether you are a Middlebury student, professor or just a passerby, chances are you have seen the West Cemetery. You might know it as the shortcut to the gym, or the place with the mummy. Regardless, it is hard to miss.

What many people have not seen is Middlebury's other cemetery — a well-hidden treasure tucked into the far side of the knoll, with no markers or tombstones; buried in this graveyard lay hundreds of sacred texts. The texts range from entire prayer books to Genizah scraps.

On Friday, Sept. 28, Rabbi Kevin Hale, a visiting Torah scribe, led Middlebury's second sacred scroll burial. The proceeding closely resembled a traditional funeral. There were shovels, rabbis, prayers and sentiments. The occasion was described by many as both joyous and sad — a celebration and a letting go. Rabbi Hale regarded this as a natural process, a way to "give life to sacred practices by letting them go with respect" and as a "celebration of a creative process that keeps on going."

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Students bury hundreds of sacred texts in a ceremont on the Knoll.

This symbolism extends beyond the Jewish faith. Middlebury's Muslim Chaplain and Advisor Saifa Hussain spoke of an Islamic tradition in which sacred texts must be returned to the earth by means of burial, burning or submerging the text in a body of water — a beautiful metaphor for respecting the earth and its gifts.

"We give [the texts] back to the earth," Talia Rasiel '22 said. "The idea is that you came from dust and you return to dust."

Throughout the burial, it was easy to forget that the object of the ritual was a series of texts. The way the attendees spoke of the scrolls as living, breathing entities meant to be read, kissed, danced and interacted with made it seem as though the writing truly has a life of its own.

When asked about this sentiment, Rabbi Hale said, "It doesn't so much suggest idolatry as it does honoring and showing respect and love for the text. When you hold a Torah scroll it feels as though you are holding a baby."

The multiplicity of religions represented at the burial of these Jewish texts begs the questions: how does this practice relate to other practices and beliefs? Is Middlebury doing enough to organize and welcome beautiful and meaningful events such as this?

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Rabbi Hale performed a Jewish as well as multifaith ceremony.

"I grew up with a huge respect for all religions," Evan Killion '21 said. "They all have something special. I love learning about the different conceptions of god. People here are taking various religion classes that don't correspond to their own faith because they are genuinely curious — they want to learn more and they have a deep respect."

Ultimately, the event offered an intriguing glimpse into traditions that surround the end of the lives of sacred texts and reminded us of the myriad ways we reflect on our place on earth.

DON'T MISS THIS

23rd Annual First Year Show: YOU ARE HERE

The Theatre Program presents the 23rd annual First Year Show, a collection of short plays and scenes by current students and Middlebury theatre alumni. Directed by Craig Maravich.
Thursday-Saturday 10/4-10/6, 8 p.m.; 10:30 p.m. Friday, Hepburn Zoo, $6.

Fall Faculty Forum

The Fall Faculty Forum showcases the amazing scholarship and creative work produced by faculty, who often have difficulty in finding opportunities to share this aspect of their careers on campus.
Friday, 10/5, 1 – 6p.m., Axinn Center.

Cocoon

Inspired by the popular storytelling phenomenon The Moth, Cocoon is a special evening of true stories told live without notes. This sixth-annual communitywide event is produced by the Middlebury Moth-UP in partnership with the Mahaney Center for the Arts. A reception with the storytellers follows.
Friday, 10/5, 8 p.m., Robison Concert Hall, $15/12/8/6.

NYT Reporter on the VW Scandal & Corporate Culture

By YVETTE SHI
Arts & Academics Editor

In September 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency disclosed that the German automaker Volkswagen had installed devices in 11 million cars that cheated emissions testing, permitting their cars to emit hazardous nitrogen oxide. The reporting of Jack Ewing, Germany correspondent for the New York Times, led to Volkswagen paying a more than $20 billion settlement. Ewing's 2017 book, "Faster, Higher, Farther: The Volkswagen Scandal," digs deeper into the corporate scandal, tracing it back to the company's history since the Nazi era and its top-down management culture.

In a lecture on Sept. 25 organized by the college's Environmental Studies program, Ewing discussed how Volkswagen, a corporation that prides itself in being environmentally conscious, committed massive crime and fraud.

Ewing spoke with The Campus by phone prior to the lecture about his book, lessons to be learned from the scandal and the role of journalists covering the corporate world today. The interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Yvette Shi (YS): When and how did you start to realize the role played by the company's corporate culture?

Jack Ewing (JE): I had dealings with Volkswagen off and on for years, and I was already aware that it was a very kind of rigid, authoritarian type of company culture, and I knew who some of the leaders of the company were and sort of how they operated. So I think that was from the very beginning — not obvious — but I immediately had a feeling that the corporate culture certainly played a role.

And then we looked at the way the company responded to the scandal, and how close they were and how long it took them to confront it, to start investigating. And then when I started to develop sources inside the company or people that have worked at Volkswagen. At last, it just became clear pretty quickly that it was the kind of company where you couldn't admit failure, you couldn't say no to somebody above you and where there was not a strong moral underpinning or strong moral standard that people believe they are supposed to adhere to.

YS: Do you think that this sort of top-down culture is typical for large corporations?

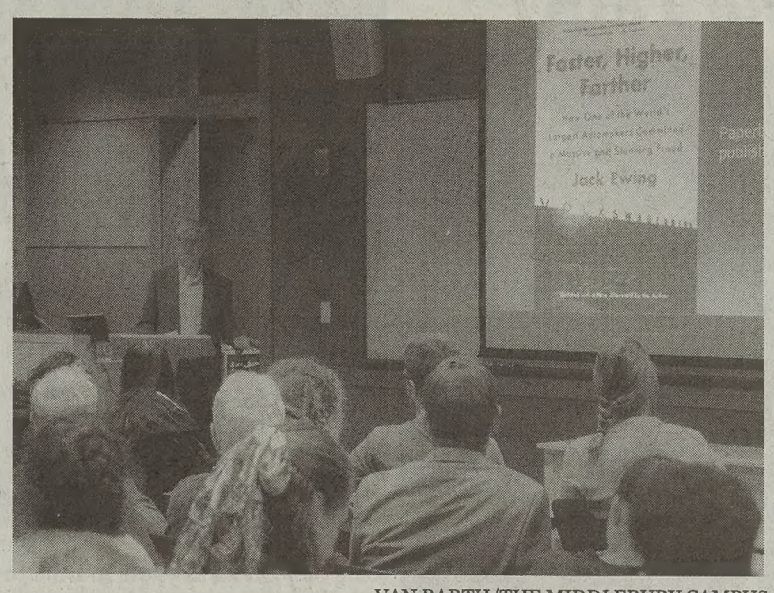
JE: I think it's certainly not uncommon. I think it exists to some degree almost in every big corporation. I think Volkswagen was the particularly extreme example, but at the same time I think it's definitely the case that it's something that can happen at any company. If you look at other scandals, like Enron, going back that's been more than a decade, or Wells Fargo Bank in California, you know they were defrauding their clients on a massive scale, you always have this ingredient. The main ingredients are that you have a culture where people don't feel they have any recourse when they are asked to do something unethical, and where you have top management setting extremely ambitious goals, and making it clear that if you fail, you are going to be fired.

So to that extent, and there's lots of companies that operate that way, where they are constantly asking more and more employees and if you don't deliver, your job is in danger. And that's just an invitation for people to start to commit wrongdoing, because most people, even if they know that they can get caught in two years or five years, they'll still try to hang on to their jobs for as long as they can.

YS: You talked about having sources inside the company. What was that process like? What were the challenges that you faced?

JE: That's always difficult with a corporation. It's particularly difficult with a company like Volkswagen. Volkswagen has over 300,000 employees. The first thing was to figure out the people we should concentrate on. What we did is that we found academic papers, where they have talked about their mission and technology, the engineers who have published papers in journals, and we found some papers that have names of engineers on them. Also we looked at patent registries that list the names of the people who get credit as inventors, and also helpfully their home addresses.

Then we just set about contacting those people. We did the usual thing, trying to call them a couple times, knocking on their doors — that wasn't successful. I had the most success actually writing letters. So I would write people letters, tell them why I thought it would be in their interest to talk to me. I probably sent at least 50 [letters], and a much smaller number got back to me, but a number of people did get back to me who wanted to talk, and that was sort of the beginning where I was able to then figure out how the whole thing happened, the process with the whole illegal software being developed and then deployed over many years.



VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Jack Ewing discusses how Volkswagon's company culture led to the emission scandal.

YS: What can students interested in entering the corporate world after school learn from the scandal?

JE: I think that you are going to learn a lot from the scandal. If you work in a corporation, there's tremendous pressure to conform, people will possibly be asked to make moral compromises, and companies do not always help you to know when you are being asked to step over a line. I think that the clear message is that you have to maintain your own sense of what is right and wrong, independent of what your employer might be telling you. And if you feel that that's being violated, you have to take action, you can't just go along, you have to have moral courage.

I think that the people that were involved in this, a lot of them, their careers are ruined and in some cases they might go to jail. Also, a lot of them were fairly idealistic. They originally went into emissions technology because they wanted to make cleaner air, and then wound up being part of this fraud. So I think that the message is that you have to have the courage and the strength to stand up when you are being asked to do something like this.

One thing that I still find amazing is that at the very end there were a couple Volkswagen employees who went to the California regulators and said this is what's really going on that's wrong. But this is after they hid [the device] in cars for ten years. And the whole time, nobody went to authorities and said that there's something really big illegal going on. Volkswagen would have been better off if they had. Everybody would have been better off. But nobody did that.

YS: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

JE: I guess the one thing that I always like to try to get across about this book is that some people think it's a car book, and it's not. I really tried to write it for people who don't care about cars, don't know about cars. My editor John Glusman, before we started working, he said: "Jack, you know, I really don't care about cars at all." And he doesn't even know the difference between an automatic and a manual transmission. So he says: "You're going to write a book that I'm gonna want to read." So that's really what I tried to do.

Healers and Healthcare

By GIBSON GRIMM
Contributing Writer

Mario Siddhartha Portugal Ramirez was a graduate student in Quito, Ecuador when one day he decided to grab a bite to eat at a local market. Among the vendors, he came upon several women who used unconventional medical practices to cure ailments. Feeling a little under the weather, Ramirez decided to give it a chance. The healers rubbed herbs on him and gave him some to ingest. The next day, he woke up and found he felt much better.

Years later, as a sociologist and former Middlebury professor, Ramirez decided to study these medical practices in depth. On on Thursday, Sept. 27, he discussed his recent work in this field in a presentation at the college. Through his research, Ramirez found that traditional medicine gained popularity through a wave of South American indigenous movements in the 1990s with the goal of transforming the government to be more inclusive.

A large part of these movements was a shift toward intercultural health, which consists of "actions towards integration of diverse medicine," Ramirez said, giving "equal value to their ideological and practical grounds."

Oftentimes, however, it is less a matter of identity that leads people to choose traditional medicine over conventional methods than it is a matter of cost.

When the government lowers the health budget, traditional practices become more common. According to Ramirez, a prevalent concept in Ecuador is that "every human being has some knowledge of how to heal himself," and many individuals decide traditional medicine is the best route for them in everything from mild illnesses to cancer. In the growing capital city of Quito, these remedies take the form of urban folk medicine, with healers offering traditional health services in urban markets.

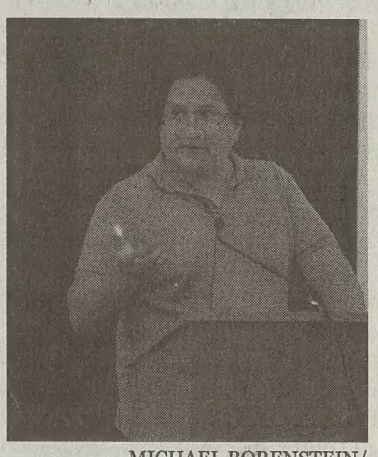
Most healers are women. Urban folk therapy is often very personal for the women involved, and many seek to pass on their knowledge to certain patients. Most therapies emerged prior to the fall of the Inca Empire and, though similar across the board, many are healer-specific and no two therapies are exactly the same. Men involved in traditional practices typically serve a more mystical, shamanistic role, though a handful of male healers are in practice.

Ramirez focused his research on two markets: the Mercado San Francisco, a clean, tourist-focused market with its roots in colonial Ecuador, and the Mercado de San Roque, which appeals more to locals. Most healers have their own stall, where they offer a variety of therapies and sell products like candles, soaps, perfumes, oils and alcohols tailored to particular issues.

Certain flowers are used to foster "luck, love and fortune." Nettle is one of the primary herbs used for cleanses, where healers will rub it over the patient for general treatments (and yes, it does sting).

While herbal medicine is commonplace, it is not the only method of treatment among these practices. For instance, a red string tied around the wrist is said to cure those stricken by an illness where they miss someone so much they fall sick and eventually die. Another illness these women treat: sickness from a bad look someone gives you.

When one first goes to a healer, however, the healer may not immediately be able to discern what is wrong. To address this concern, there are some techniques unique to South American folk culture. For example, the healer might rub an egg all over the patient, let the egg sit, and come back to observe any spots or deformities on the egg, from which they can deduce what is wrong. In another method, they do the same with a live guinea pig (called a cuy in Ecuador), rubbing the rodent over the patient before killing it and opening it up to see what is wrong. If there is an abnormality with the guinea pig's heart, for instance, there is probably an issue with the patient's heart as well.


MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ramirez speaks about the gray area surrounding urban folk medicine.

Ramirez's research found that there is a sense of exclusion surrounding urban folk medicine, whose marginal existence is largely unregulated and ignored by the state government and NGOs. Therefore, knowledge of folk medicine is ambiguous, and little is understood about the medicine and conflicting perspectives of the subject abound over its validity.

Ramirez saw intercultural health as very much a gray area as well, where traditional and conventional knowledge both make up the healthcare network of the country.

One takeaway from Ramirez's research: folk medicine is significant in strengthening the indigenous culture of Ecuador and in doing so, making the state more inclusive as it embraces its heritage.

Cocoon to Present an Opportunity for Metamorphosis

By HANNAH BENSEN
Contributing Writer

As students experience the seasonal and academic transformations this time of year brings, this Friday's storytelling event, Cocoon, will offer even more opportunity for metamorphosis.

The sixth-annual live performance event will feature six storytellers speaking to the theme of "Origins" on Friday, Oct. 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Robison Hall at the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCA). The community-wide event is organized in conjunction with the MCA and the Middlebury Moth-Up, a student storytelling organization. Guitarist and MCA Technical Director Mark Christensen will provide musical interludes, and a reception will follow the event.

Cocoon will present a diverse cast of storytellers. Two students, Megan Job '21 and Kyle Wright '19.5, were selected to speak, along with alumna and admissions staffer Maria Del Sol Nava '18 and community member Jon Turner of Wild Roots Farm. Recent Middlebury retirees Linda and Ira Schiffer will also present a joint story. Also telling his story will be François Clemmons, a lauded actor, singer and writer best known for playing Officer Clemmons on the TV series, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

"We're trying to engage the community in as broad a way as possible," said Liza Sacheli, a staff organizer and the director of the MCA. "This event succeeds because we have a really interesting group of storytellers every year. We try to balance some students, some alumni, some faculty/staff, some community members, so there is really a diversity of voices, and hopefully that relates to a diversity of audience members as well."

In the past, Moth-Up and Cocoon events have had a variety of themes ranging from "Blood" to "Arrival." Although the storytellers might interpret the theme very differently, the theme serves as a common thread, linking the collection of stories together to some degree.

"The theme 'origins' asks our storytellers, and to an extent our audience, to think about deep and personal questions," said Sarah Asch '19.5, president of the Middlebury Moth-Up and co-organizer.

"Where do I come from? What do I represent? Who I am? How do I tell that to the world? From what I have seen so far these musings are going to turn into some truly awesome stories," she said. "It is a theme that asks a lot of the storytellers, the producers and the audience, but I think that the show will prove very rewarding."

Job's story will reflect on her transition from her hometown in Brooklyn, N.Y. to Middlebury. It will be her first performance.

"I think that the spoken word and storytelling is very powerful," Job said. "I think that they are very moving for the speaker and the person who is watching it."

This will be former Cook Commons Coordinator Linda Schiffer's second time performing at a Moth-Up affiliated event. Her husband, Ira, is a rookie performer to the organization, but he has public speaking experience having delivered sermons as the former Associate Chaplain/Rabbi of Middlebury College. The duo will recall a significant moment that shaped the lives of their family.

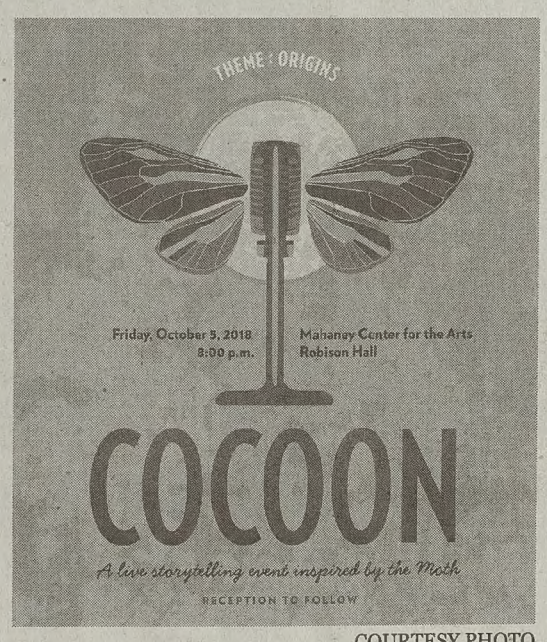
"This story, for us, was compelling, and we are hoping that others find kernels of truth of themselves in it," Ira said. "I'm hoping it's a story that will get people thinking, reconsider world views, reconsider biases, reconsider life trajectories."

"And I'm going to pick up on the life trajectories," Linda said, "and hope that people will be less locked into given situations, and know that there's more out there, and that when given the opportunity to take a different path, they'll have the spirit, the courage, to say, 'yes, I've wanted to try that; I'm going to take the chance and do that.' And recognize that whatever happens down that path — it's not a failure. It's a learning experience."

Cocoon is inspired by the national sensation The Moth, a group dedicated to the craft of live storytelling that has become a popular live event, radio show and podcast. The Middlebury Moth-Up evolved from the national organization in 2010 and is a monthly event that features a handful of storytellers, generally students. Both Cocoon and the Moth-Up have two rules: all stories must be true and no notes are allowed.

Sacheli refers to Cocoon as "The Moth on steroids."

"What we've done is take the successful model that the students did for their monthly Moth [Up] gatherings," Sacheli said, "and we said, 'What would happen if we put this on a more formal stage, and we put a few production values behind it? If we had live musicians, we had lights, we sold tickets and had a reception after it? What would happen if we added some pizazz to the already-perfect recipe that the Moth [Up] was serving up?'"



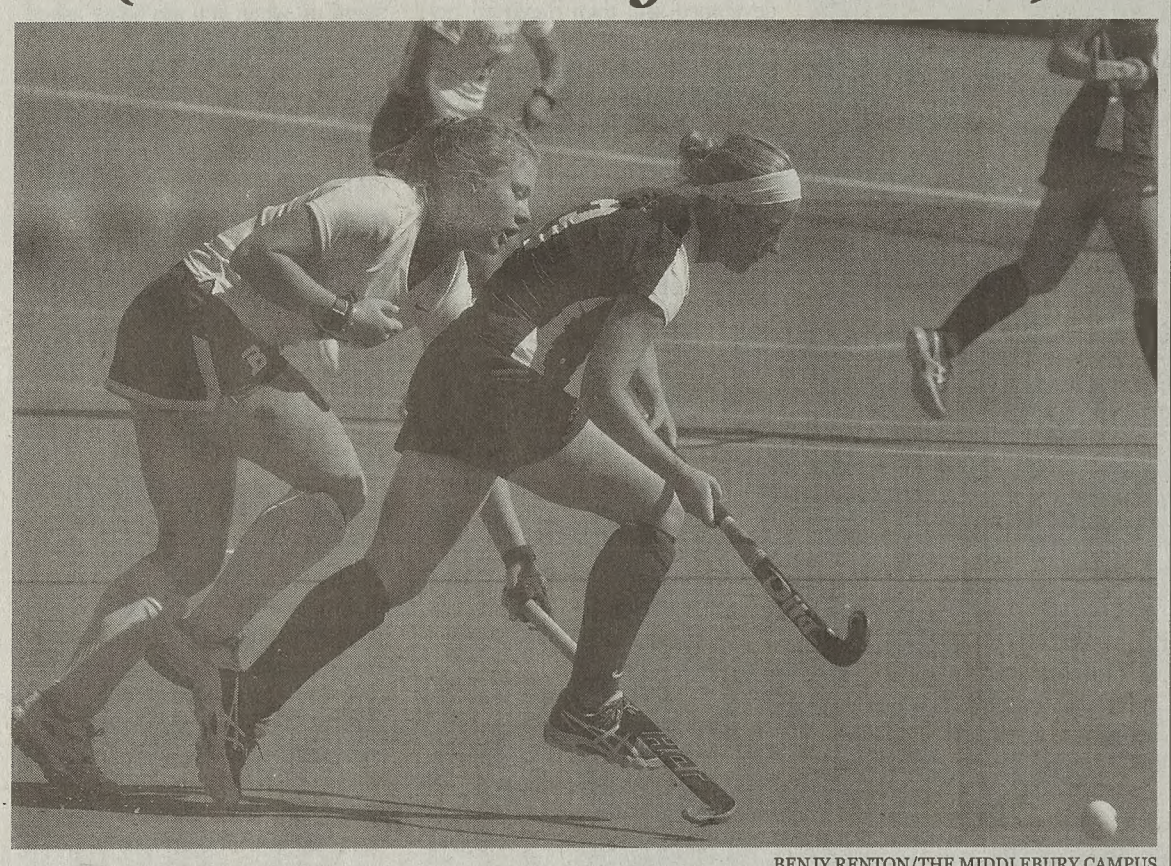
COURTESY PHOTO
Cocoon brings together students, faculty and community members through the shared experience of the spoken word.

The formula has worked, and according to Sacheli, there will have been a total of over 30 storytellers and 1500 audience members after this year's event. The Moth phenomenon seems to have struck a chord in its audience members, as evidenced by its widespread popularity nationally and at overflowing Middlebury Moth-Up events.

"Everyone likes different stories, or rather, everyone notices different things about the same story," said Asch. "We all bring our own experiences to the table as audience members and that impacts how we react to stories on stage. For me, what I really value in storytellers is vulnerability. I admire storytellers who are able to transport the audience emotionally, to really give us a slice of what they are feeling ... The stories that I always remember, even years later, are the stories where the emotion came through loud and clear."

Tickets can be bought at Middlebury's online arts page or at go/boxoffice.

Field Hockey Continues 9-0 Streak (But You Already Knew That)



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Molly Freeman '19 fights for the ball from a Babson player on Sept. 23. Freeman scored the first goal against Skidmore on Sept. 26.

By CAROLINE BARTLETT
Senior Writer

The Panthers added two wins to their record this week, putting them at 9-0 for the season.

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, Middlebury travelled to Saratoga Springs, N.Y. to face the Skidmore Thoroughbreds on their home turf. Skidmore was the first to strike, capitalizing on a penalty corner to score the only goal of the first half at 22:25. But the Panthers came back strong in the second half, marking five consecutive goals to finish with a decisive 5-1 victory. Molly Freeman '19, Emma Johns '20, Danielle Brown '21, Grace Jennings '20, and Erin Hogan '21 (her career first) all contributed to the goal-scoring. Overall, Middlebury controlled the game in shots on goal (25-1) and led penalty corners (16-1).

The game on Saturday, Sept. 29 took place all the way in Waterville, Maine against the Colby Mules. Once again, the Panthers overcame a 0-1 deficit at halftime to come out with a 4-1 win. This time, goals were scored by Marissa Baker '20, Julia Richards '20, Erin Nicholas '21, and Danielle Brown '21. Behind all the goal-scoring, the team worked together to dig deep and execute their game plan. "Last week's games definitely tested our team and I believe that we grew a lot as a result of that," said senior captain Amanda Bozorgi.

"Each game, we learn how to use our depth as a team more effectively," said fellow senior captain and goalkeeper Meg Collins. "In terms of our lineup, we're bringing players into different positions that better match their individual skill-sets."

As for that impressive 9-0 winning streak, the team is using it as motivation to stay focused on what's ahead. "It feels great to have such a strong first half of the regular season, but combined with coming off such a successful season last year it definitely has teams motivated to beat us," said Collins. "So we just have to work harder every day in practice to continue to improve our game."

Next up, the Panthers take on Tufts, also undefeated and ranked second in the NESCAC, at home on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. "We're coming into this week with some things that we need to work on," said Bozorgi. "But this team is so deep and so adaptable, I have nothing but high aspirations for the rest of our season."

Panther Football Dominates Colby Mules in Fourth Quarter

By LAUREN BOYD
Staff Writer

A strong finish in the fourth quarter lifted the Panther football team over the Colby Mules this past Saturday in Maine. Out-scoring its opponent by 14 points in the 4th quarter, the Middlebury team took home its second win of the season, 31-14.

Last week, Coach Bob Ritter wanted the team to "concentrate on the things [they] can control," such as being in the right place to capitalize on opportunities. This past weekend, the Panther defense took this to heart, as they forced five Mule turnovers in an effort to improve their record.

Defensive execution on part of the Panthers kept Colby at arm's length. Three of four Mule fumbles resulted in Middlebury possession, which allowed the Panthers to have not only more opportunities to score, but also prevented Colby control of the ball.

Charles Roselle '21 and Matthew Daniel '19 accounted for two interceptions of the game. Daniel returned the interception for 32 yards and a pick-six in the fourth quarter, further increasing the Panther lead and ultimately assisting the Panther win.

The intensity of the Middlebury defense, mixed with a great effort on part of the Panther offense, characterized the second half of the game. It all started, however, in the first quarter.

After Middlebury's first drive of the game in the first few minutes, a Mule punt returner dropped a Maxwell Rye '20 kick, which was recovered by Will Jernigan '21. A subsequent connection between senior quarterback Jack Meservy '19 and junior tight-end Frank Cosolito led to the first score of the day, with the Panthers leading 7-0.

Following a scoreless second quarter, the second half came with successive turnovers. Colby scored an equalizer touchdown in the 3rd quarter, but Middlebury's Carter Massengill '20 hit a 25-yard field goal to regain the lead, 10-7, before the end of the third.

The Panther offense then took control of the game, scoring two offensive touchdowns and Daniel's pick-six, cementing their win against the Mules, 31-14.

Jonathan Hobart '21 led Middlebury in tackles, with six solo and four assists. Conrado Banky '19 accounted for 38 receiving yards on the day (1 for 38) as Jernigan ran for 79 yards (11 for 79) and passed for 95 (7 for 95).

The Panthers will take on the Amherst Mammoths at Middlebury this upcoming weekend, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Katie Glew '21 races at the Aldrich Invitational on Sept. 15.

Cross Country Passes the Competition

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

Another week brought more great performances from the Panthers. On Saturday, Sept. 29, the men's and women's cross country teams took part in both the Paul Short Invitational and the Vermont State Meet.

"We're preparing to race at Lehigh's Paul Short Invitational and the Vermont State meet just as we would any other race," siad Matt D'Aquila '21 beforehand. "At Lehigh we're anticipating seeing how we can compete against the best of the best in the NCAA. At Vermont State, guys will not only be gunning for the win, but will also be testing their ability to run hills at a very challenging course. Ultimately, these are just two more races to prepare us in our pursuit for dominance in the championship season."

At the Paul Short Invitational, the women recorded 855 points. This placed them at 37 in a field of 41 teams. The top three runners were Rory Kelly '19, Katie Glew '21 and Anna Willig '20. Kelly had a time of 21:58, Glew with 22:40, and Willig with 22:45.

At the Vermont State Meet, the women placed first in a field of six teams with a score of 32. Abigail Nadler '19 captured third place with a time of 22:35.1. Chloe Smith '21 and Olivia Mitchell '20 came in fifth and sixth place respectively, with times of 22:47.9 and 23:16.3.

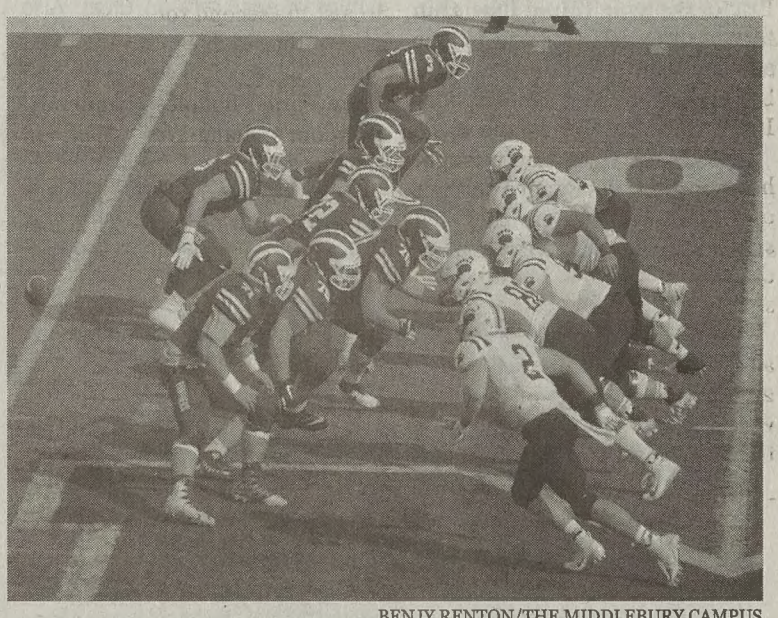
"The team was super happy about our performance at Vermont State," Nadler said. "It was an extremely hilly and tough course but everyone gutted it out for the team."

At the Paul Short Invitational, 550 points netted the men twentieth place out of a total field of 42 teams. D'Aquila was the top Middlebury runner with a time of 25:22. Next up for the Panthers were Jon Perlman '19 with a time of 25:38 and Miles Meijer '19 with a time of 25:50.

At the Vermont State Meet, the men got first place in a total field of six teams with a score of 15. The men happened to capture the first six places. The top three were Ben Hill '19 with a time of 29:39.2, Quin McGaugh '22 with a time of 29:50.6, and Noah Whiting '22 with a time of 29:59.4.

Even though the NESCAC Championships are looming, the Panthers will have a couple of free weekends and one more meet before then. The Panthers' next meet will be Saturday, Oct. 13 where they will face off with their competition at the Connecticut College Invitational.

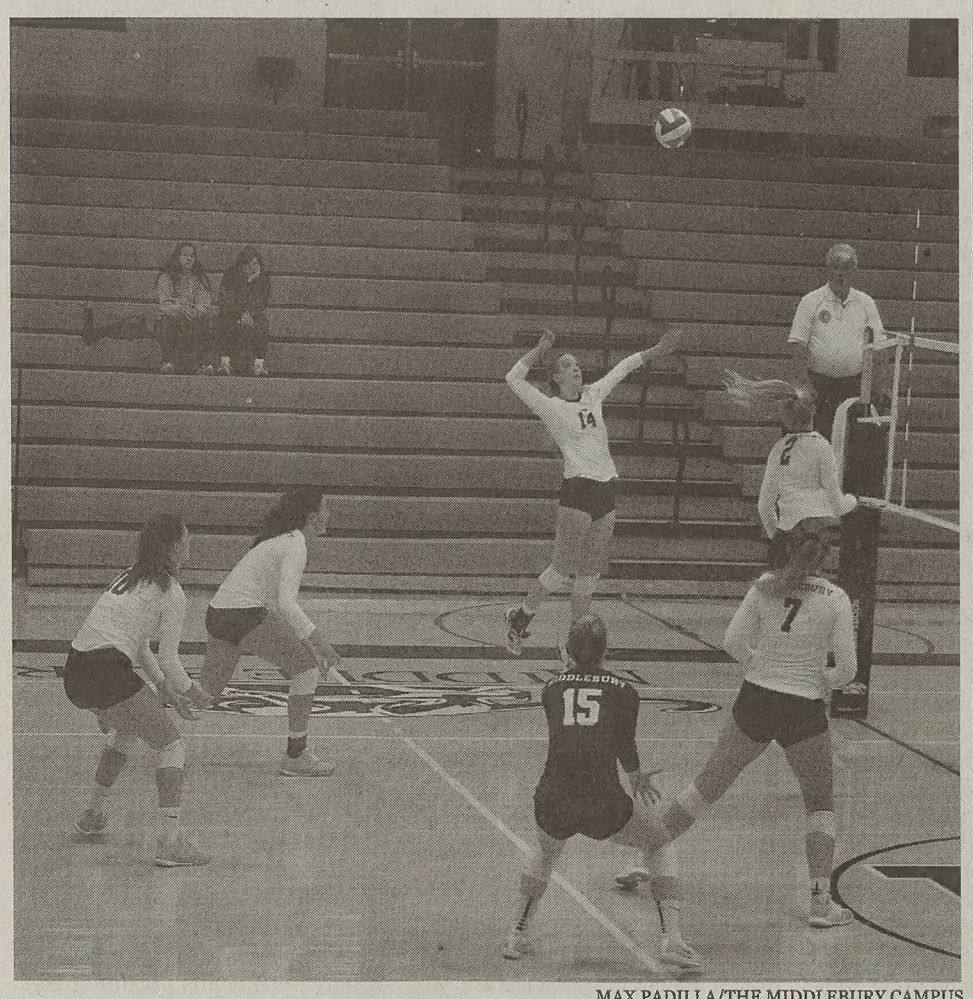
"Our team is looking really strong going into Conn, and we are looking forward to having next weekend off in order to train and rest," Nadler said.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Panther's offensive line faces off against the Bowdoin Polar Bears on Sept. 22.

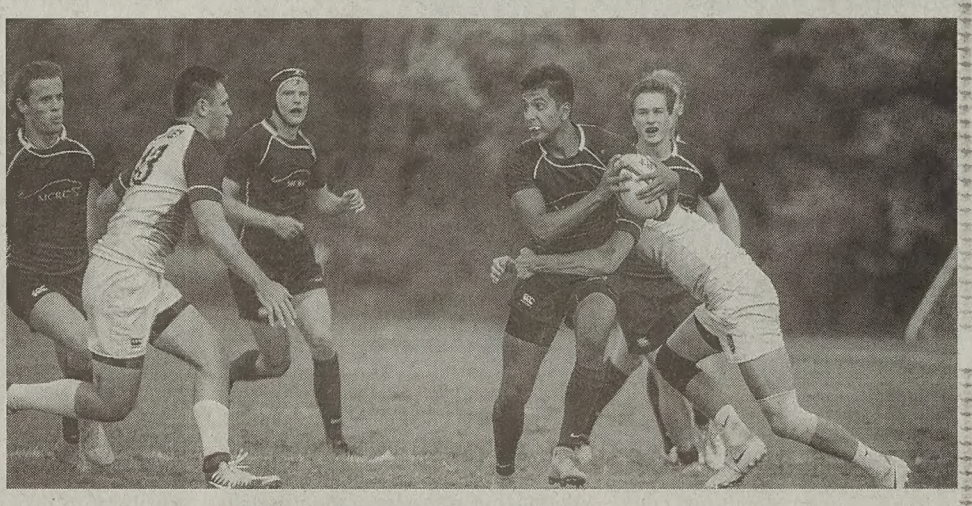
Volleyball Serves a Winning Streak



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Isabel Sessions '19 passes the ball in a match agains Saint Michael's on Sept. 25. In addition to their 3-0 victory, the team won matches against Bates and Colby this past weekend.

Women's Rugby Beats NVU With Whopping 127-0 Score



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Both club rugby teams played at home this past weekend. The men's team lost to Bentley 19-5, while the women won against NVU 127-0.

Women's Golf is Tee-rific

By EMILY BIAN
Senior Writer

This past weekend, the women's golf team competed in the Williams Fall Classic, gearing up for the NESCAC Championships on Sept. 6-7. The last tournament before the championships, this was Middlebury's last chance to show their opponents their competitiveness in chasing the NESCAC title. The Panthers finished in the top 10 at fifth place amongst 15 teams. NYU took home the title with a 622, while Middlebury carded a two-day total of 651.

For the third straight week, the players saw significant improvement. Leading Middlebury after carding a season high of 70 on Saturday, Chloe Levins '20 earned medalist honors at the event. besting the field by five strokes. Maddy Cordeiro '22 reduced her first round score by seven strokes to shoot an 85 on Sunday, carding a total 177. Erika Nakagawa '21 followed suit and decreased her score from the first round to the second, teeing a 95 and then a 94.

Blake Yaccino '20, consistent with her strong showings, shot a 76 on day one, and a 83 on day two, finishing with a 161 overall. She tied for 17th place. Helen Dailey '19 was next for the Panthers, carding an score of 167 (82-85), while a couple strokes back was Anna Zumwinkle '20, coming in with a score of 185 (91-94).

"[The team] is in a good place," said Coach Mandigo, in reference to its preparations for next week. "They have started the season on a positive note and they are working hard to improve."

While they are definitely in the running for a NESCAC title, Coach Mandigo doesn't want to let up. "I expect this team to work hard to improve on a daily basis," he said. "I hope they will continue to support on another and push each other to get better."

Next weekend, the Panthers will be returning to their homefield on the Ralph Myhre Golf Course, where they hope to continue shaving off strokes in preparation for the NESCAC Championships that follow on October 6-7. Come out and support your fellow Panthers as they attempt to bring home a title!

Men's Tennis Misses the Ace

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Sports Editor

Middlebury College hosted the 2018 ITA Division III Men's New England Regional Tennis Championship from Sept. 28 to 30. The Proctor Tennis courts, busy from Friday 9:00 a.m to Sunday 1:00 p.m, saw 20 Division III teams compete in either a singles or doubles match. The ITA championship format consisted of one singles bracket and one doubles bracket. 64 players competed in singles, while 32 pairs participated in doubles.

The championship comprised of NESCAC rivals, like Williams, Amherst, and Bowdoin, who were no strangers to Middlebury's courts. Also in attendance were non-NESCAC schools with fairly competitive tennis programs, like Brandeis and MIT. Brandeis, in fact, captured first place in one singles bracket, and in two doubles brackets at the Middlebury Invitational on Sept. 15 and 16.

The Panthers certainly fought hard to assert dominance on their own courts. However, they fell short of achieving their goal of emerging victorious in either the singles or doubles brackets.

Captain Lubomir Cuba '19, a two-time All-American and 2017 NESCAC Player of the Year, would find himself busy in both the singles and doubles tournaments. Cuba, in the singles bracket, would advance as far as the quarterfinals, defeating Wheaton's Tracy, Babson's Mendiola, and Williams' Taylor, before falling to Williams' Arturo Kam. For doubles, Cuba would find more success when paired with Nate Eazor '21. The Cuba-Eazor pair managed to advance as far as the championship round, but would lose to Bowdoin's Jerry Jiang and Justin Wang, 6-3, 7-5.

On the singles draw, Captain Noah Farrell '19 would also battle his way to the quarterfinals round, powering through Emerson's Lin, Bowdoin's Wang, and Wesleyan's Anker. Farrell would lose to Tufts' Sorkin, 6-3 and 7-5. Other players like Nate Eazor '21 and Stanley Morris '22 would go as far as the round of 16, while Adam Guo '21 and Andre Xiao '21 would advance to just the second round.

For the doubles draw, Farrell and Peter Martin '19 would fall to the eventual doubles champions, Bowdoin's Jiang-Wang pair, in the quarterfinals.

Despite the missed opportunity to capture victory at home, the Panthers will have another chance to show their dominance in New Jersey, at the Farmsworth Invitational hosted by Princeton. The Invitational will take place Oct. 5 to 7.

Women's Soccer Kicks Away the Competition

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Cate Wagner '22 faces off against Bowdoin on Sept. 22.

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's soccer team finished this past weekend's doubleheader with another impeccable winning record, bringing their season record to a whopping nine wins — and no losses.

The Panthers walked away from this pair of victories holding the record for highest number of consecutive wins at the beginning of a season in Middlebury women's soccer program history. Along with this impressive title, the Panthers now occupy the fifth slot in Division III women's soccer rankings.

Middlebury faced both Colby and New England College on the road on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The sophomore class took the lead against the Colby Mules, generating three of the team's four goals with shots from Leah Salzman '21, Eliza Robinson '21 and Eliza Van Voorhis '21 (senior Sara DiCenso knocked in the fourth).

Although the Mules were able to sneak in a goal early in the first half, they were ultimately unable to come back from Middlebury's scoring streak and the game finished at 4-1, in favor of the Panthers.

Goalie Eva Shaw '20 made her first reappearance on the field against New England College after an injury, starting the first half. Sachi Howson '21 picked it up in the second half, coming up with five of the team's six saves for the day.

Sunday's match was less exciting than the team had hoped, despite the win. New England College lost to Amherst 8-0, a team the Panthers solidly beat 3-1. Yet, Middlebury seemed unable to replicate that energy and pulled off a slim 2-1 win.

"I think we all know we could've performed better as a team but having said that, we still came out with a win which we feel good about," said Sabrina Glaser '21. "We learned from it and we're going to work hard as a team to make sure we go out united and perform better next game."

Hopefully the Panthers will be able to bring up the intensity this Wednesday as they host Castleton University and keep the streak alive.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Noah Farrell '19 returns the ball with a killer forehand during the September 28-30 tournament at Middlebury.

Photos of the Week

MIDDLEBURY TRACK AND FIELD FIGHTS HUNGER

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Middlebury track and field team walked over two miles with community members at the annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, Sept. 30. The team has raised over $1,000 was raised to donate to local organizations ranging from the Charter House Coalition to H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects). President Laurie Patton was the honorary chair and speaker at the event.

Men's Soccer reMaines in Control

PANTHERS FINISH WEEKEND DOUBLEHEADER 0-1-1

By ERIK ARVIDSSON
Staff Writer

On Sept. 29 and 30, the men's soccer team headed to Maine for a doubleheader against rival Colby College on Saturday, and then with University of Maine Farmington on Sunday. Against Colby, the Panthers struck first on a penalty by Daniel O'Grady '19 in the 22nd minute. The rest of the half remained scoreless and the Panthers headed into the locker room holding onto a slim lead. In the 56th minute, Colby found the back of the net, equalizing the score. Lucas Pereira assisted Cam Cloude as the Mules managed to even the score at 1.

At the end of 90 minutes, the match remained tied and the teams headed into overtime. Middlebury was the dominant team throughout, outshooting Colby 16-8, and earning 13 corners as opposed to the Mules' lone two. Colby's goalkeeper was busy in the net, making nine saves while Midd's Matt Hyer '21 only made three. Midd kept pressing for the go ahead goal and they almost found it. As Midfielder Michael O'Herron '19 recalls, the Panthers really deserved the win, except a missed call cost them a penalty.

"We had one play where Donski (Brandon Reid '21) had a one on one with the keeper and he touched it around the keeper and got tripped, the ref fully missed the call."

Regardless of the pressure from Middlebury, Colby wasn't going to drop the game just yet. Deep in the second half, they had a close chance, but the ball hit the crossbar. Had the shot been a few inches lower, the Mules would have stolen 3 points from the Panthers. Middlebury and Colby would eventually tie, 1-1. Raffi Barsamian '21 noted "It's one of those games were the better team didn't end up coming out on top."

Moving on from the disappointment, the Panthers competed in a non-conference matchup with U-Maine Farmington on the following day. The Panthers were a level above their opponents from the start. Brandon Reid '21, one of the Panthers most prolific goal scorers, tallied on a breakaway assisted by Drew Goulart '20 in the 10th minute. Goulart was in a giving mood; in the 21st minute, Goulart assisted Ben Potter '20, who scored on a header. In the 38th minute, Shams Mohajerani '20 gave the Panthers a 3-0 cushion. The Panthers went up 4-0 just before the half when a player from UMaine Farmington scored on his own goal. With a four goal lead heading into the second half, the Panthers distributed playing time for every single member of the team.

Michael O'Herron '19 noted that these fresh faces stood up to the challenge. "Everyone on the team played so it was nice to get the freshman out there," said O'Herron. "It was a tough surface, and not an easy place to play, so it was nice to see them play well." The Panthers rounded out the goal fest by finding the back of the net two more times. Henry Wilhelm '20 and Brendan Berry '22 scored in the 50th and 81st minutes respectively. The final score was 6-0 in favor of the Panthers.

Coming up this weekend the Panthers face their biggest test of the season yet: a home matchup against third-ranked Tufts. "Tufts is the team to beat in the NESCAC" said Kyle Moffat '19. "You get that honor from winning two national titles in four years."

O'Herron also noted that Tufts brings a high level of quality to their game in contrast to the typically physical NESCAC style.

"They play a possession oriented, ball on the ground style, they are high quality and technically very sound," O'Herron said.

The Panthers will look to disrupt that style, but they also think they can play along with the style of the Tufts team when necessary.

"It will be important to affect their style given that one of our strengths is the physicality of our game," O'Herron said. "That being said, we have some really technical players who can match that style as well."

The match this weekend should be an exciting one. Bring your family out and show your Panther Pride!

Middlebury's Most Magical Tournament

By JUSTIN CELEBI
Contributing Writer

There is no better location for a game of Quidditch than Battell Beach, where the sport was introduced back in 2005 by a group of Middlebury College students who had no idea of the impact they would make. On Sunday Sept. 30, Quidditch came home in the form of the Middlebury Quidditch Classic Festival. The tournament was a fitting tribute to the origins of the sport that swept the nation. Two tournaments comprised of thirteen teams representing seven colleges and the five commons played, along with eight organizations and six food vendors to keep spectators more than occupied between matches. It was a perfect day for Quidditch, warm and sunny. The butterbeer was flowing, the taco and crepe stands had roaring business and the Quaffles were flying. Plenty of kids (and more than a few adults, too) were seen walking around decked in their finest Hogwarts robes.

Forty-six-year-old Phil Johnston and his 11-year-old daughter Sophia drove down from Vergennes, VT to watch the tournament. When asked to explain why she decided to come, Sophia replied, "Because I love Harry Potter."

Kate, Harper and Freja, ages 39, 13 and 12, came from Shelburne, VT to watch. The three were in agreement that what they liked the most about the Classic was the atmosphere.

"[I loved] the fun of it," Kate said. "No one worries about anything but Quidditch [at the tournament]."

In the round-robin Quidditch pools of the morning, the play was loose and fun, as nobody would be eliminated until later. The announcers were members of Middlebury's various improv groups, providing commentary that, while not always relevant, was plenty entertaining. One highlight from the announcing booth: "Oh, he got the pants, but not the Snitch!"

In the competition to win the Commons Cup, it came down to Ross and Cook in the final after Ross defeated Wonnacott 120-50 and Cook beat Brainerd 130-120. It was a close match, and at one point Ross appeared to get the Snitch for an upset victory. However, the play was recalled and Cook's strong offense was the deciding factor in their 170-90 acquisition of the Commons Cup.

In the college bracket play of the afternoon, the playful atmosphere of the morning was mostly forgotten. In the opening round, Middlebury beat Vassar 150-60, led by spectacular goaltending by Ian Scura '19.5 which allowed the Panthers to increase their consistent lead. Meanwhile, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) knocked off the Dumbledore's Army wing of the UVM team in a lopsided 130-10 match. While Tufts cruised to a 170-60 victory over Providence, Skidmore put up 170 points in a victory over UVM's Fellowship team.

In the quarterfinals, Middlebury took on Skidmore. Within five seconds of the match starting, Skidmore had scored a goal. Not to be outdone, Middlebury came back with one of their own just moments later, kicking off a fast-paced duel that saw the Panthers and the Thoroughbreds exchange 5 goals in the first minute and a half. In the end, though Skidmore had some good breakaway goals, they struggled to field a cohesive offense, and excellent play by the Middlebury beaters and a relentless offense that gave them a 150-70 victory. Meanwhile, RPI proved to be too much for Tufts in a hard-fought game where they came away with a 130-50 victory.

So it was onto the finals, with the hosts facing the powerhouse from Rensselaer, who had yet to lose a game during the day. The game took off at a blistering pace, with RPI's thunderous offense led by chaser Chris Lamonica keeping the heat on the Middlebury defense. Middlebury's offense matched their opponents goal-for-goal in the early going, but as the match progressed, RPI pulled in front and slowly lengthened their lead. After a slight delay of game due to an injury to the Snitch, RPI caught the golden prize and it was over, 160-60.

At the closing ceremonies, as trophies were awarded and the teams gathered on the pitch for a group photo, there were no hard feelings anywhere. Rather, each player was only too happy to celebrate the thing that had brought them together one last time before heading home: good, old-fashioned Quidditch.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ian Scura '19.5 runs down the field in the quidditch final against RPI.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLE
Members of the Cook Commons team celebrate victory in the Commons Cup.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Brainerd and Wonnacott Commmons players battle for the Commons Cup prize.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Teams from all around New England convened on Battell Beach at the Classic.

Men's Golf Wins Qualifier

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Sports Editor

The men's golf team travelled south to Middlefield, CT to compete in the NESCAC Fall Qualifier hosted by Wesleyan University. The tournament took place at the Lyman Orchards Golf Club, a top-rated course in Connecticut and a popular family attraction known for its cultivation of apples and peaches.

This past weekend, however, Lyman Orchards also became a battleground on which 10 men's golf squads, bearing the insignia of their respective New England liberal arts colleges, would duke it out for an opportunity to compete in, and possibly host, the four-team NESCAC Championship occurring this April.

The Panthers (587) emerged victorious from this scrap. They were followed by Trinity College (588) and Hamilton College (592), who finished second and third respectively. The red-hot Ephs of Williams College (596), who finished first in both the Ralph Myhre Invitational and the Williams Invitational, were nine shots behind Middlebury, landing in fifth place. The tournament host, Wesleyan University (641), placed ninth.

The Panther's victory looked imminent after they were ranked third after the first round, having shot 293. The team, on their second day, maintained a consistent overall performance. They shot 294, which was low enough to push them into a first place finish. Evident by their one point lead over Trinity, their win was clearly a close contest.

Captain Reid Buzby '19 (71-73) led the Panthers with an individual total score of 144, which was third overall. Just two shots behind him was Jordan Bessalel '21 (72-74), who finished in a tie for fourth, and then Phin Choukas '22 (75-73), who placed eighth. For 11th place, Kenneth Deiker '22 (75-74) hit a total of 149, while David Packer '20 (78-76) managed to land in a tie for 23rd.

Hopefully they can replicate this strong performance on April 27 and 28, when the NESCAC Championship comes to the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. But presently, golf will need to keep its focus for the upcoming Ekwanok Tournament, happening on Oct. 9 at Manchester, Vermont.

COURTESY PHOTO
Reid Buzby '19 swings at the NESCAC Fall Qualifier, Sept. 29-30.

In the Cards

By NICOLE HONG
Sports Editor

GRACE JENNINGS 6
M
MIDDLEBURY
FIELD HOCKEY
FORWARD / 2019
FROM GHENT, NEW YORK
GRACE JENNINGS IS NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE. GAME AFTER GAME, SHE CARRIES HER TEAM WITH CONSISTENT ASSISTS AND TONE-SETTING GOALS. THE SENIOR CAPTAIN HAS ALSO GARNERED TWO NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS THROUGHOUT HER CAREER. WITH HER WINNING RECORD AND STRONG EXPERTISE, JENNINGS CONTINUES TO SUCCESSFULLY LEAD A NEW MIX OF PLAYERS WITH PERSERVERNCE, CONFIDENCE AND TRUST.

SEASON	GP	GS	G	A	PTS	SH	SH	SOG	SOG	GW	DS	PS-ATT
2018-19	9	9	8	2	18	23	0.348	14	0.609	2	0	0-0